Why not visit France in the spring?

Country is gay-welcoming; weak dollar means bargains can be found outside Paris.

IML is coming up

But organizers warn, don't bring the drugs.



Dancing 'Kings'

Sergio Trujillo sets dances on 'The Mambo Kings.'

see Arts section



# AY REAL EPORTE

Vol. 35 • No. 20 • 19 May 2005

Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

# Leather Daddy Robert Davolt dies

by Liz Highleyman

ell-known author and leather community leader Robert Da-volt died at Davies Medical Center in San

Francisco Mon-day, May 16. He

As he vealed month in his LeatherPage. com, Mr. Davolt had surgery had surgery a few years ago to remove what was believed to



Robert Davolt

was believed in the aminor melanoma skin lesion, which he attributed to repeated tropical sunburns during his time in the Navy. Recently, however, he learned that the cancer had spread extensively.

Joe Gallagher, the publisher of
LeatherPage.com, said Tuesday that
Mr. Davolt's death caught friends by

surprise; doctors had thought he had a few more months.

Aware that he had a limited time left, Mr. Davolt took the rare opporpage 21 ▶

# board fires director

by Zak Szymanski

ays after the executive director of the Filipino Task Force on AIDS told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the organization's financial troubles likely would lead to its demise, FTFA's board of directors de-



him, and pledged to fight for the organi-zation's survival. Efren Bose,

who was interim executive director of FTFA since last fall and took the po-

and took the position permanently in March, told the B.A.R. last week that FTFA would be closing its doors at the end of June and that he was in the process of looking for bankruptcy lawyers so that the agency could "die as dignified a death as possible." FTFA – which provides culturally sensitive, ethnic-specific prevention programs and support services to Filipinos living with HIV/AIDS – has

page 19 >



### Remembering those lost to AIDS

# Gay GOPer shakes up things in Sacramento

by Matthew S. Bajko

fter coming face to face with California's most public ho-mophobe, Jeff Bissiri doesn't know what lies behind the eyes of the Reverend Lou Sheldon.

eyes of the Reverend Lou Sheldon.
"I chose not to make eye contact," said Bissiri, executive director of the state Log Cabin Republicans, who squared off against Sheldon last week during an Assembly committee hearing on a constitutional amendment to ban

gay marriage.

For Bissiri, Log Cabin's first
Sacramento lobbyist, it was a coming out of sorts since he took on his new role March 1. For Sheldon, it was public notice that he no longer has a monopoly when it comes to voicing a conservative stance on gay

'Too often the conservative message has been ceded to Lou Sheldon and his supporters. We needed to have a voice there saying supporting domestic partner rights is conser-vative, supporting stable relationships regard-less of sexual orientation is conservative," Bisless of sexual orientation is conservative, Bissiri told the Bay Area Reporter during an interview Friday, May 13 on the eve of the gay Republican group's annual conference, this year held at the Marriott Courtyard in San Francisco. "Sacramento is full of all kinds of groups lobbying for their position. Gay Republicans deserve to be there like anyone else."

Last week's hearing was only the second time Bissiri had spoken to lawmakers about pending legislation; the first was a hearing on a bill by Assemblyman Leland Yee (D-San

a bill by Assemblyman Leland Yee (D-San Francisco) that would ban antigay tactics under the state's fair political practices stan-



California Log Cabin Executive Director Jeff Bissiri

ing to his new role as Log Cabin's public voice, Bissiri found himself sandwiched besandwiched be-tween Sheldon on his right and As-semblyman Ray Haynes (R-River-side), the backer of the gay marriage

the gay marriage ban, on his left. "It was some-what intimidating. I have no doubt that Reverend Sheldon knew what he was doing by staying at the table," said Bissiri.

They are supposed to leave, but he chose to remain, no doubt in

an effort to intimidate whoever spoke."

During his showdown with Sheldon, Bis siri said he was surprised to see the hearing room packed with only opponents of the constitutional amendment. Sheldon's sup-porters, he said, where nowhere to be found. Perhaps, he surmised, Sheldon and his anti-

rernaps, ne surmised, Sheidon and his anti-gay legions knew the antigay measure had no chance of passage so they stayed away. "It is hard to say. Maybe they didn't or-chestrate it correctly or they have lost momentum. I would like to say it was because they have lost momentum," he said.

Seeing the gay GOPer at the dais is a wel-come sight to gay Democratic activists, who for years have been the sole lobbying force at the Statehouse for the LGBT community. With the day-to-day presence now of the Log Cabins, they are hopeful that more moderate

# Continuum closes adult day program

by Zak Szymanski

lifteen years after its founding, the groundbreaking adult day health program at Continuum is closing on May 27, the organization appears of the continuum appears of the continuum is closing on May 27, the organization appears of the continuum is closing on May 27. 27, the organization announced last week. The news comes two months after its outgoing executive director emphasized that the agency was in good financial shape and just days after a Continuum fundraiser brought in \$260,000.

The first program of its kind in the country, and the only such program in the Bay Area, ADHC provides case management, Area, ADHC provides case management, skilled nursing, emotional support, meals, and rehabilitative services including art therapy and physical and occupational therapy to low-income and homeless people – primarily people of color – with HIV/AIDS who are often triple-diagnosed with mental illnesses and addictions. Fourteen staff positions will be lost as a result of the program's closure, with an opportunity for three of those positions to transfer elsewhere in the organization for a net loss of 11 staff members.

tions to transfer elsewhere in the organization, for a net loss of 11 staff members.

Continuum served about 70 clients
through the program. The agency serves
about 800 clients in its other programs,
which are not affected.

Government funding cuts and insuffice.

ing cuts and insuffi-cient Medi-Cal reimbursement rates led to bursement rates led to the program's down-fall, according to Con-tinuum's former Exec-utive Director Mark Cloutier, who is also the new executive di-rector of the San Fran-cisco AIDS Founda-tion, effective June 1. A



Mark Cloutier

proposed partnership between Continuum and the San Francisco Department of Public

and the San Francisco Department of Public Health aimed at saving the program fell through in April.

Medi-Cal reimbursement rates for ADHC programs like Continuum's are \$70 per client per day, while Continuum's program costs about \$110 per client per day, for a total of about \$900,000 a year. Additionally, about one-third of the program was funded through Ryan White CARE dollars, and Continuum lost \$309,000 when funding for the ADHC CARE category was cut in March 2004. The city of San Francisco filled that gap with general fund dollars, but when Propositions J and K failed to pass in November sitions J and K failed to pass in November 2004, Continuum lost another \$110,000, said Cloutier. The agency incurred about \$250,000 worth of debt from the ADHC pro-

gram this year.

Cloutier said that when he spoke to the Bay Area Reporter in March about Continuum's financial stability, a plan was in place with DPH that would have allowed the adult day health program to continue operating. The plan would have stationed DPH's nurse practitioners at Continuum, allowing Con-

page 12 ▶



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# **World Pride postponed**

by Matthew S. Baiko

sraeli organizers of this year's world Pride event postponed the international gathering until 2006 due to the country's planned pullout of the Gaza strip.

After weeks of speculation that the gay celebration would be canceled, the host committee made its announcement Sunday, May 15 to push back the event to August 6-12 next year. The decision comes three months before participants from around the globe were ex-pected in Jerusalem for the second World Pride, originally planned for August 18-26 this summer.

Jerusalem Open House, the host organization for World Pride, now plans to hold a Pride celebra-tion Thursday, June 30. Originally, the organization planned to hold the Pride festivities during World

Pride in August.
Jerusalem Open House Executive Director Hagai El-Ad said having the international gathering at the same time as thousands of people are being forced out of their homes would be "highly inappropriate and do a disservice to the values we are trying to pro-

the values we are trying to pro-mote with this event." El-Ad, who is in San Francisco this week as part of the San Fran-cisco Jewish Federation program Gvanim – which means different shades – met with the Bay Area Reporter Saturday, May 14 at the LGBT Community Center to dis-cuss his agency's decision. He said organizers made their decision once the Israeli government an-nounced the Gaza pullout would



JOH Exec. Director Hagai El-Ad

begin August 16, just two days be-fore the start of World Pride.

"We have not taken a step back.
We have decided to step aside," he said. "It was a very difficult deci-sion but a very natural decision and the only decision that should taken under these unique circumstances.

In its announcement, JOH Chairperson Noa Sattath added that, "We have taken this decision out of consideration to the most out of consideration to the most difficult political climate expected in Israel this August. As a community we are deeply engaged in the complex reality surrounding us."

The postponement of the event should not be seen as supporting the government's plans for Gaza, stressed El-Ad.

for Gaza, stressed El-Ad.
"Without taking a political po-sition that the pullout is good or bad, there is broad disagreement in Israeli society and around the

world about the pullout. But there is broad consensus this is not going to be a happy time for the Israeli people," he said.

InterPride, the International Association of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgendered Pride Coordinators that licenses World Pride and chose Jerusalem as the site of the second gathering after the first the second gathering after the first in Rome in 2000, issued a statement saying it is "in full support of the JOH in their decision to post-pone World Pride" and that it is extending the licensing agreement with JOH to reflect the new date.

with JOH to reflect the new date.
Since organizers selected
Jerusalem, the event has been
rocked with controversy. ProPalestinian groups, including the
Bay Area group Queers Undermining Israeli Terrorism, have
asked LGBT people to boycott the
event due to their objections of
how. Israel treats. Palestinians. how Israel treats Palestinians.
QUIT is joining with No Pride In
Occupation in New York to call on
InterPride to move the event to South Africa, the only country in the world that ensures LGBT peo-

ple full rights in its constitution.

"Beyond that, we point out the irony, that Jerusalem Open House seems not to have noticed they were in a war zone until there was a crisis that significantly impacts Israeli citizens. The fact that every day in the occupied territories is as chaotic and dangerous for Palestinians as the time of the Gaza pullout threatens to be for the Gaza pullout threatens to be for the characteristic part and the publisher than ballism. Israelis did not make them believe that it was inappropriate to cele-brate 'Love Without Borders' in that context," said QUIT organiz-

page 11 >

# **API** center unveils anti-HIV stigma ads

by Matthew S. Bajko

local Asian AIDS agency unveiled a new ad cam-paign this week designed to combat HIV stigma in San Francisco's Chinese community. With the theme of "One mind opened. One heart touched. One life changed," the advertisements will appear on bus shelters in Chinatown, and the Richmond and Sunset districts.

"By educating individuals in the local Chinese community about the facts about HIV/AIDS, we hope to foster compassion and acceptance," said John Manzon-Santos, executive director of the Asian and Pacific Islander Wellness Center, which developed the

Designed by queer Vietnamese artist Hien Nguyen, an Oakland resident, the orange and yellow colored ads feature six cartoon Asian and Pacific Islanders, three men and three women, whose lives have been impacted by AIDS. Advertorial cartoons of each of Advertorial cartoons of each of the six characters will run in local Chinese newspapers beginning May 19 and public service announcements will appear on local cable channels this month.

Funding for the campaign came from the Ford Foundation's

HIV/AIDS Anti-Stigma Initiative and the Evelyn & Walter Hass Jr. Foundation. The ads are the result of surveys API did with 300 Cantonese speakers in Chinatown.



API Wellness Center's John Manzon-Santos, left, with Stephen Louis and Claudine Chang, unveils new anti-HIV stigma ads.

The surveys found that 50 percent of respondents did not want HIV people to work in schools, while more than 60 percent said HIV-positive people should not handle food or work in hospitals.

"We cannot change the world overnight but we can do it one person at a time," said Manzon-Santos during a press conference at City Hall Monday, May 16.

at City Hall Monday, May 16.
Joining him in launching the
campaign were Supervisors Bevan
Duffy and Fiona Ma and API center supporters Claudine Chang
and Stephen Louie, the Asian
Women's Resource Center board
chair.

Our community does not like to focus on personal traumas, per-sonal crimes or personal illnesses. This disease is something that can

be controlled with greater awafeness and focus," said Ma.

The ad launch kicked off a week of new HIV initiatives targeted at Asian Americans. Today (Thursday, May 19), the API center will hold the first ever National Asian and Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day and launch its Banyan Tree Project, a yearlong campaign to fight HIV-discrimination in API communities.

The public is invited to the free event, which will feature a panel

The public is invited to the free event, which will feature a panel discussion with Olympic diver and Gold medalist Greg Louganis, who is HIV-positive, and former professional football player Esera Tuaolo. The kickoff takes place from 5 to 6 p.m. at The Forum, Yerba Buena Center for the Arts, 701 Mission Street at Third.  $\blacksquare$ 

# Will Levada appointment ease Vatican's hard line?

ill the appointment of San Francisco Archbish-op William Levada to one of the most powerful posts in the Vatican ultimately lead to a softening of the church's hard-line on homosexuality?

That's the question many gay Catholics are asking in light of the news announced last week that Pope Benedict XVI has named Levada as his successor to head the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. In that role, Levada will be charged with being the chief enforcer of Catholic doccriter enforcer of Catholic doc-trine. With the appointment, Lev-ada becomes the highest-ranking American in the Vatican.

A spokesman for the archdio-

cese, Maurice Healy, noted that when the issue of homosexuality in the church was raised during a press conference to announce the appointment on Friday, May 13, Levada responded that he has tried to be "pastoral" to the gays and lesbians.

San Francisco is so diverse. san Francisco is so diverse, that there will be a greater sensi-tivity to all people," Healy told the Bay Area Reporter, "but the basic teachings of the church will not

change."

During the press conference,
Levada hinted that he may take a softer approach than the pope, who was nicknamed "God's Rot-tweiler" when he held the posi-tion. Levada joked that he consid-ered himself "more a cocker

Paul Riofski, the chair of the Liturgy Committee for Dignity San Francisco, an organization of gay Catholics, told the B.A.R. that he's hopeful that Levada will bring to the Vatican a more tolerant at titude toward the LGBT commu-nity, particularly because of Levaexposure to the relatively liberal American society.

"But for us personally, a greater concern is who will be appointed

at Kernighan, a former aide to ex-Council member Danny Wan, won the special election to fill Wan's unexpired

term on the Oakland City Coun-cil. The results of a monthlong mail-in special election were re-

leased Tuesday, May 17 by the Alameda Coun-

With all 37 precincts in Dis-

trict 2 reporting,

Kernighan gar-

nered 29.34 per-

Registrar of

by Cynthia Laird



Archbishop William Levada

as his successor," Riofski added. Healy said that the selection of Healy said that the selection of a new archbishop for San Francis-co could take up to a year. He ex-plained that candidates are select-ed and recommended by the bishops but that the pope will make the ultimate decision of a replacement for Levada.

ment for Levada.

Riofski added, "The climate for LGBT Catholics is pretty good here. [Levada] didn't really interfere with things set up by his predecessors and he really didn't take any action against Dignity, per se, or the gay-friendly churches."

Dignity has chapters throughout the country. Dignity San Francisco meets for weekly Mass on Sundays at 5:30 p.m. at the Seventh Avenue Presbyterian Church on 7th Avenue Presbyterian

Church on 7th Avenue at Judah in San Francisco.

Sam Sinnett, the national president of Dignity USA, told the *B.A.R.* that he is reserving his comment on Levada until he can confer with people from Dignity San Francisco. Sinnett is from the St. Louis area.

Gino Ramos, a co-chair of Dignity San Francisco and Riofski's partner, said he also remains hopeful that Levada's California roots would translate to a more progressive attitude towards gays

natown and the Grand Lake areas.

Kernighan's victory means that the City Council will be without

any LGBT representation; Wan had been the first openly gay per-son on the council. He resigned in January citing personal financial reasons. Despite the presence of an out lesbian in the race, Wan

and lesbians in the church.

But Jeannine Gramick, a Mary-land-based Catholic nun who has crusaded for more than 25 years to liberalize the church's views on

gays, was less optimistic.
"[Pope Benedict XVI] chose him because he knew his views were compatible with his own," Gramick told the *B.A.R.*, adding that she found the selection "dismersizing"

appointing."
Levada faced one of his biggest controversies in San Francisco in 1997 over the issue of domestic partner rights. The city passed the equal benefits ordinance, which required that organizations or businesses that have contracts with the city offer benefits to domestic the city offer benefits to domestic the city offer benefits to domestic the city of the cit mestic partners of employees if those benefits were offered to spouses of heterosexual employ-ees. Catholic Charities received more than \$5 million in city contracts but balked over providing benefits to domestic partners. Levada engineered a compromise for the charity to give benefits to any member of an employee's household, whether that person is

household, whether that person is a relative, roommate, or domestic partner. Gay members of the Board of Supervisors met with Levada during the negotiations. In 1999, Levada strongly opposed the city shutting down a portion of Castro Street for the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence's 20th anniversary Easter party. The Board of Supervisors, however, allowed the street party to be held.

Board of Supervisors, however, allowed the street party to be held.
Levada, 68, was born in Long
Beach, California. He was ordained a priest in 1961 and held a
number of posts with the Los Angeles Archdiocese. He was the
Archbishop of Portland, Oregon
from 1986 until he was selected to
head the San Francisco Archdiocese in 1995. cese in 1995

cese in 1995.
Levada will leave for Rome on
August 17. An "Apostolic Administrator" will be appointed to run
the archdiocese until a permanent
replacement for Levada is found,
Healy said. ▼

backed Kernighan for the job.
Peggy Moore, the only out
LGBT candidate in the race, fin-ished a distant seventh with 3.26
percent of the vote. She did not re-

turn a call seeking comment by

Kernighan, 55, could take of-fice as early as next week. ▼

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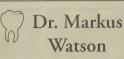
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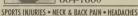
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Barnes moved to San Francisco about eight years ago and got his start in local government working under the late Dick Pabich who served as the city's first AIDS policy adviser. After Pabich's death, Barnes, who is an openly gay African American living with HIV, served as the AIDS adviser before joining Daly's staff.

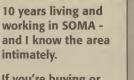
You'll find Barnes's column, Barnestorming, on page 9.

### From the editor

Kernighan wins Oakland council seat

The Bay Area Reporter is pleased to announce that after an extended search, San Francisco resident Bill Barnes has been selected as our new political columnist. He succeeds Wayne Friday, the paper's longtime political editor who retired earlier this year. Barnes, 28, is a former legislative aide to Supervisor Chris Daly. Barnes has experience as a political candidate — he ran for District 5 supervisor last year — and currently is a member of the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee.

Barnes moved to San Francisco about eight years ago and got his

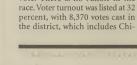


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# **BCA** hosts sexuality forum

### compiled by Cynthia Laird

he Black Coalition on AIDS will host a community dia-logue about sexuality and black culture Friday, May 20, at 7 p.m. at BCA's offices, 2800 Third Street, at 24th in San Francisco.

The forum, entitled "Black Sex and Green Tea," will include a mix of art, music, spoken word performances, poetry, and a community conversation about sexual health. It will feature Gail Wyatt, Ph.D., a leading authority on black sexuality and

the author of Stolen Women: Reclaiming Our Sexuality, Taking Back Our Lives. Wyatt is one of the first African Amer-News ican women to be

licensed as a psychologist in California. She is a sex therapist, pro-fessor of psychiatry and bio-be-havioral science at the University of California, Los Angeles' AIDS

Institute.

"This is one of the many conversations that we must have as a community if we are going to seriously combat the spread of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, and promote healthy intimacies," noted BCA Executive Director Perry Langamong the questions to be explored are: What does sexuality mean beyond procreation? What is the role of gender within current notions of black sexuality? What does it mean to 'get your

What does it mean to 'get your freak on'?

health forum sponsored by BCA's LGBT advisory council. The coali-tion regularly hosts forums on the second Wednesday of each month on such topics as asthma, diabetes,

For more information, visit www.bcoa.org or contact Mark Robinson at (415) 615-9945 or email programs@bcoa.org.

### Suicide prevention benefit

San Francisco Suicide Prevention will host its 43rd anniversary fundraiser Friday, May 20. The event, enti-tled "Sea of Hope" takes place from 7 to 10 p.m. at Aquarium of the Bay on Pier 39 in San Francis-

co. With food, bev-

erages, and music by Chris Clouse and his band, the benefit marks the anniversary of the oldest volunteer crisis line in the country.

Last year, over 30,000 suicides

took place across the U.S., compared to roughly 17,000 homipared to roughly 17,000 nomicides. Of those suicides, three-quarters were male, and over half were killed by firearms. Suicide is now the ninth leading cause of death in the U.S. and is responsible for more deaths among adolescents than all natural causes

combined, actording to SFSP Ex-ecutive Director Eve Meyer. SFSP helps people and families identify risk factors that lead to suicide and provides a focused, non-judgmental resource for anyone whose inner pain leads to considering death as a solution. The agency also offers telephone counseling to people with addictions and with HIV and hepatitis C issues, as well as training for young people and faith professionals.

sionals.
Tickets to Friday's benefit are
\$50. For more information, call
(415) 984-1900, ext. 106.
The suicide and crisis line
number is (415) 781-0500. The
AIDS/HIV Nightline number is
(415) 434-AIDS or 1-800-273-

### Out in Oakland meeting

LGBT community members in Oakland will hold a town hall meeting Saturday, May 21 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to discuss a proposed National Coming Out Day rally on October 9 and a larger Pride celebration in October 2006. Pride celebration in October 2006. Organizers are asking that interested people share their thoughts about what is needed at future LGBT events in Oakland. The meeting takes place at AIDS Project of the East Bay, 1755 Broadway, 3rd floor, in downtown Oakland. For more information, call (510) 832-3539 or e-mail tkwest-st@ryshop.com

### Tranny picnic Sunday

will host the third annual trans, intersex, genderqueer, and buddies picnic Sunday, May 22 from noon to 5 p.m. at Dolores Park (Dolores and 19th Street) in San Francisco.

The event is meant to bring together the trans, intersex, and genderqueer communities, including

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# **Longtime Castro** florist closes shop

by Tyson Gillfillan

or 30 years Bredwell Meyer Flowers has stood at the corner of 18th and Eureka, watching the Castro neighborhood become an international gay mecca, mourn the ravages of AIDS, ride the wave of the dot-com boom and bust, and weather 9/11. For owner Gene Batruk, who has run the store for the past 11 years, on Friday, May 20 the time will come to say goodbye and Bredwell Meyer will close its doors.

"It's been a good run, but I was starting to get burned out," said Batruk. "I'd rather go out on top than become 'that bitchy florist on the corner."

In a note to his clients, Batruk thanked his loyal customers for their patronage over the years. "It has been a pleasure to have been a

nas been a pleasure to have been a part of your lives, through the ro-mances, birthdays, holidays, cele-brations, and losses," he wrote. Batruk, 47, took over the shop in 1994 when the original owners left for the Midwest, and remained committed to continuing the store's reputation for focusing on quality arrangements and artful displays. When he decided to leave the business earlier this year, he had hoped to sell the shop to a florist who would carry on the tra-

dition – but no one was interested.

Although he can only speculate, Batruk believes the lack of interest was due to many reasons, including a high level of neighreliance on repeat clients and word of mouth rather than walk-in business, and current financial constraints in the community.

"People are 'mortgage poor' right now, they don't have the money for luxuries like flowers, said Batruk.

said Batruk.

Paul Moffett, president of the
Merchants of Upper Market and
Castro agrees. "Long gone are the
days of the kind of disposable income people had during the dot-com boom, when it was like a gold rush. Many smaller merchants aren't seeing the growth in their business like they used to," said



Gene Batruk is closing Bredwell Meyer Flowers on Friday after 11 years running the longtime Castro business.

As owner of PO Plus on Castro Street for 11 years, Moffett has ex-perienced the community's ebbs and flows like Batruk, and said that while new businesses are coming into the neighborhood all the time, he laments seeing a long-time merchant close its doors.

time merchant close its doors.
Some view the Bredwell Meyer
Flowers closing as one piece of a
larger puzzle: as the neighborhood changes, longtime momand-pop merchants are shutting
down and larger chain stores are
seeking to set up short. The latest. seeking to set up shop. The latest example has been Trader Joe's. The Southern California-based grocery store is exploring opening an outpost at the intersection of 15th and Market, causing heated debate among neighborhood

groups and residents at community meetings, and in letters to the

editor.

Whether such changes will bring neighborhood deterioration or are simply a sign of the times, Bredwell Meyer Flowers and Ba-Bredwell Meyer Flowers and Batruk are unconcerned. As five-year Bredwell Meyer employee Michael Richard said, "As sad as it is, sometimes you just have to accept that it's the end of an era."

As for Batruk, he's ready to spend more time with his partner and to call an end to long commutes from Hercules and the commitments that come with

commitments that come with running a floral shop. "I'm just looking forward to finally having dinner on Valentine's Day with my husband for the first time," said Batruk. ▼



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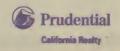
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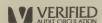
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# Continuum's conundrum

he timing couldn't have been worse. Just three days after a successful fundraiser that raised a reported \$260,000, Continuum, an AIDS service organization in the Tenderloin, announced that it was closing its adult day health program at the end of the month. Executive Director Mark Cloutier, who in March had been named as the new director of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, finished his tenure at Continuum last week, and we suspect that this was not the way he wanted to exit the agency he had run for several years.

We were stunned to hear the news. Continuum's program was one of a kind; while tinuum's program was one of a kind; while there are several other licensed adult day health programs in the city, none specifi-cally deal with HIV/AIDS patients. Now, in about a week, 70 clients will lose their pro-gram, and 11 staff members will lose their jobs. It's important to emphasize that Con-tinuum's other 800 or so clients will still receive services in a variety of programs, and a handful of the clients in the adult day a nandrul of the crients in the adult day health program likely will continue to be served by the agency. But the loss of this unique program sent shockwaves through-out the community, and left many scratch-

out the collimitative, and let many sections ing their heads.

By all accounts, Cloutier did try to salvage the day program, and he told us last week that the agency had been subsidizing it to the tune of around \$50,000 a month for the last year, going so far as to take out an extra line of credit on its building to help an extra line of credit on its building to help cover costs. But in this age of altered fund-ing streams for AIDS programs, there are several points that need to be made. First, the HIV Health Services Planning.

Council, which categorizes and prioritizes federal Ryan White CARE Act funds, decattederal Ryan White CARE Act funds, decategorized adult day health care a couple of years ago. This development was a blow to Continuum, which received some of its funding for the program through CARE dollars. While much of the cost is paid by Medi-Cal, the planning council's action was the first sign that new sources of funding would need to be found. Randy Allgaier, a chair of the council, told us last that the panel made its decision by evaluating the utilization of the services and, more importantly, the cost per client made it infeasible, particularly when the program was funded by Medi-Cal. "Other programs don't have other sources of funding," Allgaier said. "There were other funding streams available." streams available

Second, the planning council has created a new "Centers of Excellence" model that could be somewhat similar to Continuum's program (depending on which agencies are awarded contracts), though the model is not a day care program, at which clients spend a certain number of hours several days a week on site. Rather, the centers will offer one-stop services for clients, including primary medical care and other services. "It's a client-centered and primary care model," Allgaier said. Requests for proposals are being submitted, and the programs are expected to be up and running this fall. The centers are geared toward dual- and triple-diagnosed clients (those living with HIV/AIDS who also have substance abuse and/or mental health issues), like Continuum's program. Some agencies see the new model as a way to get peo-ple who normally aren't served into care. Others, however, worry that some people will be left out. John Gressman, president and CEO of the Francisco Community Clinic Consortium, expressed concern that while the centers will target high-risk individuals, others, such as those who are employed but uninsured, may be left **Editorial** 

Third, the salaries paid to Continuum management must be examined. Cloutier was making \$131,840 annually until he was making \$131,840 annually until he took a voluntarily 10 percent cut in January, to \$118,656. At least five other top staff made more than \$50,000 per year, based on the agency's 2003 IRS 990s (covering June 2002-June 2003). The agency's total budget is around \$3.5 million. Yet in the same neighborhood, the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center, whose budget is just slightly smaller at around \$3.4 million, pays its executive director a more modest \$85,000 per year. As we wrote several years ago during the height of concern over SFAF's inflated salaries, the boards of directors at ASOs must face reality. These are nonprofit organizations serving a critical need, they are not some for-profit enterprise where, if the director brings in substantial money through fundraising, he or she is "rewarded" with a six-figure salary. And it's not just the directors – other top tier management staff at some ASOs are also paid high

salaries. So, when funding sources change or dry up, client services are always the first thing to be sacrificed. We saw that happen at SFAF when it cut its Thanksgiving dinner a few years ago, and downsized. Now, we're seeing it at Continuum.

Finally, the closure of Con-tinuum's day program points to the need for other agencies with similar programs to di-

versify. Other such programs in the city have made it on Medi-Cal reimbursements, which begs the question of why Continuum's could not. Such programs serve seniors and others with health needs and while they may not be AIDS-specific, a patient with Alzheimer's disease, for example, also requires extensive services.

We're sorry to see the Continuum pro-gram end – it was the agency's hallmark. But we can't help but be troubled by the apparent inability of the board to pare down a top-heavy management structure so that money could have been used for clients. After all, that's what being a service-orient-ed nonprofit is all about. ed nonprofit is all about



**Guest Opinion** 

# Jobs build stronger commu

by Thom Lynch

he LGBT Community Center will hold its fifth job fair – Job Fair 5.0 – on Wednesday, May 25 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Two-dozen employers including Wells Fargo, Safeway, Target, Citibank, and Bank of America have already signed up to participate, and 300 to 400 job seekers are expected to attend the event.

It was just a little more than one year ago

It was just a little more than one year ago that the first job fair took place at the center. Our plan was to provide the LGBT workforce with equal footing and equal access to employment opportunities and to provide LGBT-friendly employers with the ability to market themselves directly to the community With such successionals for its descent nity. With each successive job fair, the events have grown in size and stature, and they have become one of the hallmarks of the center's entrepreneurial approach to providing effective solutions for the communi-

Employers and job seekers alike are hailing the job fairs as successes. Job Fair 4.0, which took place on February 9, is a prime example. The event attracted 395 job seekers and 16 employers, and based on online, post

job fair surveys, it is clear that both job seekers and employers were pleased with how effective the job fair was in meeting employment needs. For example, 90 percent of the job seekers reported that the job fair helped with their job-seeking efforts; 77 percent of the job seekers reported that the job fair offered possible employmen leads; 82 percent of the em-ployers felt the job fair was "very valuable" for their diversity recruit-ing needs; and 90 percent of the employers reported that they "will be contacting candidates"

be contacting candidates.' Equally successful was the first-ever transgen-

the Inst-ever transgen-der-specific job fair, which took place on March 22. Approximately 150 job seekers at-tended the transgender job fair, a partner-ship spearheaded by San Francisco Trans-gender Empowerment, Advocacy, and Mentorship, - a fantastic turnout illustrating that a transgender job fair has been long

To date, more than 1,350 job seekers have attended job fairs at the center, and the complete list of employers who have at-tended the job fairs reads like a Who's Who

of Fortune 500 companies. Employers participate in the job fairs because they recog-nize a great opportunity to reach talented employees. They also understand that work-place strategies addressing discrimination against LGBT employees can enhance corporate reputation, increase job satisfaction, and boost competitiveness

Ultimately, however, it is the jobs that are so important – jobs and the cor-responding gains they bring to members of the LGBT community. A seminal report by the San Francisco Human Rights

Commission in November 2000 pointed out that "Discrimination in em-

ployment on the basis of sexual orientation, HIV status, and gender identity threatens the economic development of the LGBT community." The report illustrated how LGBT employment discrimination plays out. For example: female same-sex couples bring home 18-20 percent less income than a bettersexvial married. less income than a heterosexual married couple; transgender people face unemploy-ment rates as high as 70 percent; gay men make 4-7 percent less than their average het-

page 13 ▶

### Oh, the ironies

Two front-page stories in the B.A.R.'s May 12 issue struck me as an irony above all ironies.

In one story ["Natali talks with the B.A.R."], Badlands owner Les Natali says in an interview that "he has offered to donate \$100,000 over the next six ownths to any ormalistic starts."

has offered to donate \$100,000 over the next six months to any organization that promotes diversity" and to turn over 70 percent of drink sales every Wednesday night to any organization that wants to host a fundraiser at his bar.

In another ("Filipino Task Force on AIDS to close its doors"), the Filipino Task Force on AIDS has announced that it is closing its doors at the end of June not only for its inability to pay outstanding payroll taxes to the IRS, but because it has lost its main source of funding which accounts for more than three-quarters of its meager \$150,000 annual budget.

In the San Francisco community where we are

In the San Francisco community where we are most proud of our cultural diversity and sensitivity, it is sad to think that a businessman who is fighting charges of discrimination in his establishment has enough money to spare while a struggling nonprofit community and ethnic-specific organization that has served countless HIV/AIDS clients for almost two decades is forced to close shop for lack of practically the same amount of money.

Rene Astudillo San Francisco

Mailstrom

### Badlands: From bad to worse

It's bad enough that Les Natali has been discriminating against people of color and women for so

nating against people of color and women for so many years, despite receiving numerous verbal and written complaints over time from patrons, community leaders, elected officials, and even the city's Human Rights Commission.

But it's even worse that, even after an extensive City investigation and finding of culpability – reviewed and approved by the City Attorney's office – Natali has gone on the attack, misrepresenting the truth, impugning discrimination victims, their allies, and the city itself.

In fact, Natali's latest actions have actually created a new atmosphere of hostility: while most Badlands employees and patrons have simply buried their heads in their drinks – attention, Badlands patrons: the fact that you yourselves haven't witnessed discrimination doesn't mean it hasn't happened.

haven't witnessed discrimination doesn't mean it hasn't happened.

Nor does the presence of some people of color in
the bar somehow negate or "balance out" discrimination against other people of color. During my travels,
I've never been harassed by the Los Angeles Police Department. But my good fortune doesn't somehow
erase or invalidate the heinous experiences of other
African Americans. Some Badlands patrons and socalled volunteers now feel emboldened to mock Badlands picketers, who include elected officials and lands picketers, who include elected officials and LGBT, African American, and labor leaders, calling them "niggers" and yelling "white power." (Why not try these, too: Heil Hitler! Bash Queers! Ha, ha, ha! Funny, right?)

Funny, right?)
The city did the right thing by exposing the truth. But now it's time to uphold and enforce the law. Supervisor Tom Ammiano said it best in a letter to the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control: "Should Mr. Natali be found to have been violating antidiscrimination law, I hope that you will hold him accountable to the fullest extent possible. . . . If one engages in such offenses, then he or she does not deserve the privilege of operating a licensed liquor business in our diverse city and state."

John Newsome And Castro for All

### 'Watershed moment'

As a member of our community who served on As a member of our community who served on the Human Rights Commission, I was heartened by the support our community has shown the victims of discrimination by Les Natali at the Badlands bar. As the co-chair of the LGBT Advisory Committee, which is the committee representing LGBT interests at the HRC, we discussed issues of racism and sexism in our community throughout my eight-year tenure. HRC, we discussed issues of racism and sexism in our community throughout my eight-year tenure. Members of our committee and witnesses often discussed the way women and people of color are treated in public bars, restaurants, and businesses in the Castro. Although we wrote letters and held hearings, it took this galvanizing series of events, with over 50 witnesses stepping forward, before the commission could unhold a complaint.

nesses stepping forward, before the commission could uphold a complaint.

Our community should not question the integrity of the work of the commission staff. They spent 10 months carefully documenting testimony and analyzing the evidence presented to them. As we all know, Les Natali was asked repeatedly to provide evidence and to mediate the complaints of the witnesses, and he categorically refused to participate in this city-sanctioned process. sanctioned process.

Sanctioned process.

The report issued last month is a watershed moment for our community. Finally, a report has carefully documented what many of us have known for years. We all need to support the coalition of people

who are calling for an end to this mistreatment by our own to our own. I say, if we can't all dance together at the end of our revolution, what's the point?

Martha Knutzen San Francisco

### HRC report was thorough

We applaud And Castro For All for its efforts to rid the Castro of race discrimination at Badlands and elsewhere. The LGBT community must always stand

elsewhere. The LGBT community must always stand for inclusion and diversity. We need to be willing to stand up and be counted when people are treated with disrespect based on who they are. For this reason, the Alice B. Toklas and Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic clubs both have endorsed the boycott of Badlands.

We were disappointed to see that the owner of Badlands has chosen to attack the Human Rights Commission for its strong and well-researched conclusion that various people experienced discrimination at Badlands. Contrary to the spin from Badlands representatives, the HRC considered all sides of the dispute, spoke with all involved persons, thoroughly representatives, the HRC considered all sides of the dispute, spoke with all involved persons, thoroughly analyzed the credibility of the witnesses, and concluded that many of the allegations of discrimination were true. We as a community should respect this well-reasoned conclusion instead of attacking it. We encourage Badlands, its lawyers, and its PR consultants to stop attacking the HRC's strong process and to begin to acknowledge the serious problems that led the HRC to issue its findings in the first place.

Laura Spanjian and Scott Wiener, Co-Chairs Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club Greg Shaw, President Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club

### Discrimination must be stopped

On Sunday night I was in the Castro, and a friend of mine came to me crying because of the insults and

of mine came to me crying because of the insults and threats and mistreatment that were thrown his way as he walked on the sidewalk past the Badlands bar. I am a white, 52-year-old transgender female, who is active in many community programs, from involvement in various transgender and LGBT organizations, to membership in a local very inclusive church, where I am very involved and active. This friend is one who regularly attends the church. He also happens to be a young, African-American gay male. As he was walking by the Badlands bar, he said, he was screamed at, threatened, called that hated "n" word, with that "f" word preceding it, and told that he was the root of all their problems and that he wasn't welcome in "their" neighborhood. The people that did this came out of the bar, and he was frightened for his safety. And according to him, he has been harassed and threatened before in the Castro

been harassed and threatened before in the Castro neighborhood, with similar epithets.

As a woman, and a transgender woman, I often get insults thrown at me from the rank and file of the males in the Castro, but I generally ignore them, knowing that much of the time it comes from ignorance and lack of understanding of what transgender really is, but these racist comments that come just be-cause this person walks down the street, that is wrong. It is as much an assault as if they were to physically

This racism and bigotry has to be stopped. The problems that have started and are being perpetuated in these bars have to end. If these bars cannot control their patrons, then perhaps it is time to do whatever needs to be done to shut them down, to end their influence on the community

Dawnne Woodie, Executive Director Outreach Program for Transgenders In Crisis

### A set-up piece

A set-up piece

I hope that I am not becoming a Cassandra, but I would like to point out the defeat of the Christian right-wing's antigay marriage Constitutional amendments last week in two committees of the state Legislature was little more than a set-up piece in the right-wing's campaign to wipe out same-sex marriage, domestic partnerships and anything related to people bonding outside of traditional marriage ("Marriage bans die in Sacramento," May 12]. Our various legal and legislative victories will have no finality until the ultimate battle next lune over their anti-marriage injultimate battle next June over their anti-marriage initiative fought to the finish with the electorate.

The rightwing appears to have their strategy in place looking beyond the immediate toward next June place looking beyond the immediate toward next June and to be gearing up for this cataclysmic event. I see the opposite on our side, with attention focused on the here and now. Where is our multimillion-dollar campaign fund and sophisticated polling? Where is the sense of alarm and urgency? Politically active people should drop their other issues for the time being and focus on this battle. Apolitical people should realize that this battle will affect them and should care. Every gay and lesbian group, whether political or not, should figure out how they can help.

James W. Haas

San Francisco

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# **Political science**

he U.S. Food and Drug Administration's soon-to-be-implemented guidelines about anonymous sperm donors present a reproductive rights issue for both gay men and lesbians. When a government can't directly stop "undesirable" people from re-producing, it simply makes it more difficult for them – in this case, by instituting a policy that is more politically motivated than it

The FDA's new guidelines – set to take effect on May 25 – recommend as "ineligible" for sperm donation any man who has had sex with anothwho has had sex with another man in the previous five years, even if he's in a monogamous relationship or routinely practices safer sex. They further restrict donations from men who have had exerting the present the presen sex in the pre-**Lesbian Notions** months with

anyone
"known or suspected to have HIV
infection." (The "suspected to"
part is particularly creepy.)
This policy – which has no
basis in the science of HIV – actu-

ally got its start six years ago, dur-ing the Clinton administration, at the FDA's spooky-sounding "Human Tissue Seminar." At that time, the agency announced its intention to make it illegal for all gay men to become anonymous sperm donors because of their



supposed across-the-board risk for HIV. Despite the growth of HIV infection in the heterosexual population, straight men with multiple sexual partners would have faced no simi-

lar restriction.

A flood of protest ensued, primarily from sperm banks, which rightly saw it as invasive regulation of an industry that already employed necessary safe-guards against HIV. Indeed, there

were record only a

few cases of HIV transmission through infected donor sperm. (And today, there is no recorded increase of such transmission.) Happily, activists were successful at staving off the discriminatory change, but under Bush, the FDA began revisiting

bush, the FDA began revisiting the idea in earnest.

Let's face it – the underlying premise of the FDA guidelines is that gay men should not father children, although the agency doesn't come right out and say

that. It conveniently circumvents that. It conveniently circumvents the charges of antigay discrimination by noting that the guidelines don't have the force of law, and that the agency's official regulations—which do carry legal force—never use the words "gay" or "homosexual." Yet, as one sperm bank director admitted to any blooger. director admitted to gay blogger Michael Petrelis, "A lot of clinics will use the guidelines as an in-timidation document and refuse gay donors.

What's more, the new guide-What's more, the new guide-lines also have a direct impact on lesbian reproductive choice. Many lesbian couples prefer gay sperm donors. Indeed, they may have chosen a sperm bank where donors agree to have their identi-ty revealed at some point in the future – usually when the child comes of age – and want that donor to be "family" in more ways than one. than one.

than one.

If you think that I'm sounding a false alarm, that our government doesn't get involved in who can and can't reproduce, think again. In fact, the U.S. government has

page 10



# Off we go

by Bill Barnes

his week's my first as the Bay Area Reporter's political columnist, and I want to thank publisher **Tom Horn** and news editor **Cynthia Laird** for the opportunity. While it's humbling to follow in the footsteps of **Wayne Friday**, no one's ever gonna fill Wayne's shoes. Even be-fore I started writing this week's fore I started writing this week's column, a local activist e-mailed me to say it is likely I "will be loved, hated, lusted after, and very much feared before you do much of anything." Off we go.

### Remembering those we've lost

Sunday's AIDS Candlelight Vigil showed that our community remains united to end the pandemic. With some AIDS groups in danger of shutting their doors, it's good to know San Franciscans still remember those we've lost and fight for those who are still here. With a kickoff called "Spunk-a-Rama," the Sis-

ters of Perpetu-al Indulgence **Barnestorming** produced an excellent show at the Edge, featuring Donna Sachet and Ethel Merman. The vigil, held in the Life Center garden at Market and Noe streets, was well done. Super Noe streets, was well done. Supervisor Bevan Dufty was there, along with community leaders Hank Wilson, Gary Virginia, Cecilia Chung, and the mayor's IGBT liaison Jim "Jimmer" Cassiol. Bethany Church pastor the Reverend Dr. David Oursiman goi tright when he said, "It is better to light one candle than to curse the darkness."

Bay State equality

There's a lot to report from the Massachusetts Democratic Con-vention. The delegates, on a voice vention. The delegates, on a voice vote, became the latest of several state parties – including California, Iowa, Colorado, New York, and Washington – to endorse gay marriage, either through a resolution or a state party platform. No one spoke against the change at the convention. I guess Senator John Kerry (D-Massachusetts) has the courage to slam gay mar-riage in Louisiana, but not at

Representative Barney Frank's at it again. Frank (D-Massachusetts) criticized Mayor Gavin Newsom for his courageous stand on marriage equality and essentially ignored Senator Kerry's offensive comments about gay marriage. Now, Frank's attacking Democratic National Committee Chairman **Howard** Dean for calling out Congress-



DNC Chair Howard Dean

man **Tom DeLay**'s (R-Texas) ethical wrongdoing. At the convention, the *Boston Globe* reports that Dean said DeLay "ought to go back to Houston where he can serve his jail sentence." Frank's right that DeLay have? theen in:

serve his jail sentence." Frank's right that DeLay hasn't been indicted or convicted yet, but really, defending Tom DeLay?
Senator Ted Kennedy (D-Massachusetts), a marriage equality booster, is gearing up for reelection. Kennedy pointed out that no one even bothered to inthat no one even bothered to in-terrupt President **George W. Bush**'s bike ride as a lost plane ap-peared headed for the Capitol last week. Of course, this is the president who kept reading to grade schoolers during the first mo-ments of 9/11. Unlike Bush, Con-gresswoman Nancy Pelosi (D-

San Francisco) was working hard when the wayward airplane en-tered Capitol airspace. Pelosi, whisked away by Capitol Police, was literally lifted out of her shoes. While Capitol Police recov-ered one of the ered one of the pumps, it took **Dave Reichert**, a Re-

publican freshman con-

gressman from Washing-ton state, to find the other. He pre-sented the shoe at Pelosi's regular press conference the next day, earning 15 seconds of fame. Even without shoes, Pelosi quickly returned to the Capitol and delivered a floor speech.

### Watching your dollars

One of our community's most impressive leaders, **Mike Mar-shall**, has moved from running Snall, has moved from running political campaigns to running Under One Roof, the nonprofit shop in the Castro where your purchases support AIDS service organizations. Just last week, Under One Roof hosted its first Friday evening wine tasting. Rob Black, staffer to Supervisor Michala Alinta, Piez, and Nice Michela Alioto-Pier, and Noe Valley Democrats President Rafael Mandelman were on

I shop at Under One Roof and Community Thrift, but never go to Out of the Closet thrift shop. If you shop at Out of the Closet, your dollars support the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, the reac-tionary Los Angeles nonprofit pushing names reporting for peo-ple with HIV.

### In other words

It seems Duane Baughman, It seems Duane Baughman, the San Francisco political consultant known for blasting Supervisor Gerardo Sandoval, has some explaining to do. The New York Daily News reports that Baughman, who worked on New York City Mayer Mile Bloomher 16. man, who worked on New York City Mayor **Mike Bloomberg**'s 2001 campaign, is in the running

for more work this year.

There's a glitch though, be cause last year Baughman mailed out anonymous flyers featuring swastikas and accusing Sandoval of being anti-Semitic. The Bloomberg campaign is still de-bating who to hire for its mail

program.

On May 19, the City Democratic Club hosts former San Mateo County Supervisor and current state Senate hopeful Mike Nevin (D). Nevin, who is endorsed by just about every San Mateo elected official and San Francisco Supervisor Fiona Ma, faces a tough fight against Assemblyman Lefight against Assemblyman Le-land Yee (D-San Francisco) for the state Senate seat being vacated



ormer San Mateo County Supe Mike Nevin

by Jackie Speier (D-San Francisco-Hillsborough) as she gears up her campaign for lieutenant governor against State Senator Liz Figueroa (D-Fremont) and Insurance Commissioner John Garamendi (D). The meeting goes from 7:30 to 9 p.m. in the SPUR discussion room, 312 Sut-

ter Street, Fifth Floor. Assemblyman Leland Yee, by the way, joined LGBT leaders, including state Senator Carole Migden (D-San Francisco) and Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Englisco) in the Migden (D-San Engli San Francisco), in signing the letter that went to the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, blan Alliance Against Detamation, asking the organization to move its upcoming event from a boy-cotted hotel. It's good to have straight allies standing up for what's right. Community activists will be in the Castro this weekend to draw attention to the issue.

The extremely talented artist

Tim Gaskin heads the host com-

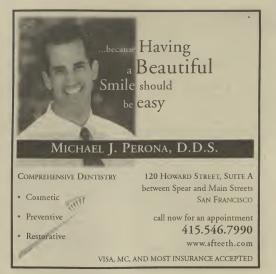


SF Treasurer Jose Cisneros

ittee for our own Treasurer Jose Cisneros at a fundraiser on May 31 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. at Asqew Grill (3583 16th Street at Market). Grill (3583 16th Street at Market). The suggested contribution is \$100. Other host committee members include Audrey Joseph, Harry Denton, Donna Sachet, Dan Bernal, Debbie Mesloh, Vince Calvarese, and Calvin Ginson Calvin Gipson.

One last piece of business: Wayne called the column "Our Man Friday," so it seemed like a new name was in order. Merriam-Webster defines "barnstorm" as "to travel from place to place making brief stops (as in a political campaign)." That seemed like a good fit, so we'll call this corner "Barnestorming."

Bill Barnes is an elected member of the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee. His e-mail is billbarnessf@hotmail.com



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# What was the Tales of the City?

by Liz Highleyman

past: May 24, 1976 (29 years ago this month): Armistead Maupin's Tales of the City debuts in the San Francisco Chronicle.

rom its beginnings as rom its beginnings as a newspaper series, Armistead Maupin's *Tales of the City* became a cult classic beloved by LGBT and heterosexual people alike, enhancing San Francisco's reputation as a haven where queers, misfits, and iconoclasts of all stripes come to create their families of choice.

A key character in the series, Mary Ann Singleton, made her mary Ann Singleton, made her first appearance in an August 1974 column in the Marin County weekly, the *Pacific Sun*. That paper folded after the column had run for just five weeks, but two years later Maupin con-vinced the San Francisco

vinced the San Francisco
Chronicle to run Tales of
the City as a daily serial.

Debuting in the Chronicle on May 24, 1976, Tales related the adventures of
Mary Ann, a girl from
Cleveland who came
to San Francisco on
yacation and decided **Past Out** 

vacation and decided to stay. She moved into an apart-ment building at 28 Barbary Lane, ment building at 28 Baroary Lane, where the other residents included bisexual ex-hippie Mona, swing-ing single Brian, and their eccen-tric, marijuana-growing landlady, Anna Madrigal. Many of the city's famed landmarks made appearances in *Tales*, and the series in turn made others famous, includ-ing the cruisy Marina Safeway grocery store; 28 Barbary Lane, however, never existed. The series was a hit, and soon countless Chronicle readers looked forward

Chronicle readers looked forward to starting their day with Maupin's latest 800-word episode.
Six weeks into the series, Michael "Mouse" Tolliver moved to Barbary Lane. Chronicle editors initially worried that introducing an openly gay character would negatively impact the series' popularity, but when Michael began a relationship with gynecologist Dr. relationship with gynecologist Dr. Jon Fielding, Maupin later re-called, "Suburban housewives ac-tually wrote me to say how much they wanted the romance to suc-

As it evolved, the series reflect-As it evolved, the series reliected the changing social and political climate of the city, and aspects of Maupin's own life were apparent in the lives of his characters. Like Michael, Maupin came from



Author Armistead Maupin

the South, where he had once worked for future-Senator Jesse Helms at a North Carolina television station. After serving as a naval officer during the Viet-

nam War, Maupin came to San Francisco as a journalist in 1971, transforming himself from a self-de-scribed "uptight, arch-conservative, racist brat" to a proud, openly gay man.

The initial Tales

series wrapped up at the end of 1976, but by Valentine's Day

the following year, Mouse and his friends were back in *More Tales of* the City. After Anita Bryant launched her antigay Save Our Children campaign in June 1977, the column featured a coming-out "Letter to Mama" from Michael, whose conservative parents hap-pened to be orange growers in Florida. In this second series, Anna Madrigal was revealed to be a transsexual – and Mona's father.

ranssexual – and Mona Carefree 1970s gave way to the conservative 1980s, Maupin's stories took on a more serious tone. In Further Tales of the City, which began in 1981, Mary Ann struggled over whether to marry Brian or devote herself to her career as a journalist. After breaking up with Jon, Michael embarked on an affair with a closeted gay movie star referred to only as "\_\_," whom many readers recognized as Rock Hudson (with whom Maupin had a brief fling).

Tales offered the public one of its first glimness of earlier and briefs.

its first glimpses of gay life, and by the early 1980s, AIDS had become a prominent theme in the series. In *Babycakes* (which began in 1983), Jon died of AIDS, probably the first depiction of the epidemic in a fictional work. In the fourth

series, Significant Others (which

ran in 1986 in the San Francisco Examiner, at the time the Chronicle's afternoon competitor), Michael learned he was HIV-pos-itive – soon after Maupin's lover, Terry Anderson, received the same

The columns proved so popular that they captured the atten-tion of a Harper & Row editor, and *Tales* became a series of six novels. In the final volume, *Sure of You* (1989) – which never ap-You (1989) — which never appeared in a newspaper — Mary Ann had become a television celebrity, and Mona and Anna Madrigal took a trip to the Isle of Lesbos. The books went on to sell more than 4 million copies and were translated into a dozen law. were translated into a dozen lan-

Tales was optioned by Warner Brothers for the big screen in 1979 and by HBO in the early 1980s, but both projects came to naught. In 1993, a British television station finally produced a miniseries based on the original Tales of the City, starring stage actress Olympia Dukakis as Anna Madrigal and newcomer Laura Linney as Mary Ann. The series ran on PBS the following year, garnering critical acclaim and record ratings, critical acciaim and record ratings, but also sparking a storm of con-troversy. Donald Wildmon's American Family Association launched a full-scale campaign against PBS, sending videos of the show's most risqué scenes to members of Congress. Fearing loss of its funding. PBS abanloss of its funding, PBS abandoned plans to produce a sequel, but cable channel Showtime took on the project. The second miniseries ran in 1998, followed by a third in May 2001 to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the first

"I never say never about anything," Maupin told an interviewer in 1999 when asked if he planned to continue his series. "It's not inconceivable that one of these days when I'm starving to death I'll write 'Christmas at Barbary Lane,' and they'll all reunite for a small, piquant book." for a small, piquant book."

### Suggested reading

Donahue, Dick. 2000.
"Armistead Maupin: Tales
Worth Talking About." Publishers Weekly (Sept. 11). Giltz, Michael. 2001. "Tales of the Tales." the Advocate (May 22).

"The Life and Works of Armistead Maupin." www.literarybent.com

### **Lesbian Notions**

often tried to prevent or discouroften tried to prevent or discourage certain people from having children – especially poor women, women of color, and people with mental or physical disabilities. It has accomplished this through sterilization programs disguised as "contraception" – perhaps most heinously, in a campaign of the 1970s that succeeded in sterilizing a fourth of all Native American. a fourth of all Native American women living on government reservations. Individual abuses are still being documented, especially in cities with high immigrant and people of color populations.

The other significant means by

which the government restricts the reproductive rights of specific the reproductive rights of specinc people is through punitive eco-nomic policies that make it im-possible for them to raise their own children. For example, the 1996 "welfare reform" bill institut-ed a "family cap" that limits pay-ments to women if they become ments to women if they become pregnant while accepting government assistance.

Understand that, at the same time, our government tries to make it more difficult for white, middle class women to opt out of motherhood, by chiseling away at their right to choose. And al-though abortion is still technical-ly legal in the United States, fewer and fewer medical schools now teach the procedure, and the number of doctors performing abortions has therefore been drastically reduced since the historic *Roe v. Wade* decision of 1973.

Of course, the new FDA guide-lines for sperm donors may seem benign compared to egregious examples from the women's reproductive-rights movement. But the lesbian and gay community shouldn't fool itself into complacency. The guidelines are ultimately all about who is and isn't "fit" to parent—who is, in effect, "mommy material," a phrase I coined a few years back. Now the FDA is poised to include gay men—based on their sexual identity, not on the realities of their sexual identity has being the phrase of the product of the prod under the rubric of those who aren't "daddy material." ▼

# **Pants down**

by Jane Warner

iesel, 400 Castro Street, April 28, 12:10 p.m.: A man came into the clothing store and started trying on clothes. As the clerk was distracted with another customer, the man suddenly ran out of the store wearing a pair of pants and a jacket he had just tried on. The clerk ran after the

suspect as another clerk called 911. An officer in the area spotted the suspect running near Most Holy Redeemer Church on Dia-mond Street and detained him. The clerk was brought to the scene and positively identified the man in custody as the suspect who allegedly shoplifted. The sus-pected thief was arrested for the offense and a search of his back-pack revealed yet another pair of

stolen Diesel jeans and three shirts from All American Boy, an-other clothing store in the Castro. The owner of All American Boy was contacted and stated the suspect was in his store earlier, but had not bought anything. The 20year-old suspect was taken to Mission Station and booked for grand theft, possession of stolen property, and an outstanding \$1,500 warrant.

### **World Pride**

◆ page 2

er Kate Raphael. "This speaks to the apartheid nature of the state, that even progressive Israeli organizations are so removed from the daily reality of Palestinian life."

daily reality of Palestinian life."
Most recently Jewish, Catholic,
and Muslim religious leaders in Israel held a rare joint news conference to denounce the event, saying
it would be responsible for the
"spiritual rape" of Jerusalem and
LGBT participants would "dirty"
the city. Jerusalem's mayor also
voiced opposition to the event and
the city's police department told
organizers that due to the planned
pullout they could not provide se-

organizers that due to the planned pullout they could not provide security for the gathering.

El-Ad said he felt sorry for the city's mayor who "wanted this to just go away as soon as possible and now will have to wait until 2006."

Battered by the various controversies, El-Ad said that lately, "there have been very intense periods at JOH, to put it mildly." Having digested the hatemonger-

ing of the religious leaders, El-Ad said the moment would go down in the history of the gay rights movement as "the most amazing and sad modern faces of homo

"This group of people who could not come together around any issue ever, not for a lack of issues such as calling for peace in Israel, but to be united around ha-

rael, but to be united around hatred of a group of individuals they hate more than each other is a very sad moment for religion," he said.

And as for those calling for a boycott, he said, "I feel embarrassed for them. It is a very strange situation for gay groups to be in coalition with the chief rabbis, muftis, and bishops speaking out against this event."

muftis, and bishops speaking out against this event."
Organizers have garnered support from moderate and liberal Jewish rabbis and leaders as well as various governments and LGBT groups from around the world. Most recently, San Francisco supervisors passed a resolution in support of World Pride.

"It is deeply moving to us and important to have support from

around the world," said El-Ad. "It is a very challenging endeavor to make happen in Jerusalem."

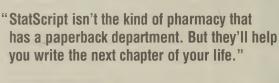
Supervisor Bevan Dufty, who has become a booster for World Pride since visiting Israel earlier this year, said he agreed with the postponement of the event. "It hink it is a good thing, It is a recognition by World Pride of the events that are going on in Israel," said Dufty. "This gives us a year to organize and ensure worldwide observance of the event."

By postponing World Pride until well after the Gaza pullout, El-Ad predicted organizers would gain more support from Israeli citizens. And while the rescheduling gives opponents a year to try to thwart the event. El-Ad yowed. ing gives opponents a year to try to thwart the event, El-Ad vowed World Pride would take place in

Jerusalem as planned.
"We will have an even more wonderful celebration in 2006," he said.

He said LGBT people should attend World Pride not only to experience Jerusalem "in all its beauty and tension," but also to send a message to those who oppose gay rights.







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### Continuum

**■** page **1** 

tinuum to receive Medi-Cal's Fed-erally Qualified Health Center hospital rate – which would have provided \$316 per client per day, minus costs – to fund ADHC. Due to unresolved conflicts between DPH and the University of California, San Francisco, which share nursing staff, the contract was un-

nursing staft, the contract was unable to go forward as planned.
"We thought solutions were in the works. There literally was a contract about to be presented to DPH. It went so far as to be on the docket of the Health Commission.

docket of the Health Commission. It was proceeding," said Cloutier. The conflicts with the proposed partnership centered around DPH payments to UCSF, combined with UCSF concerns

combined with UCSF concerns about stationing its staff in a non-hospital setting, said Gregg Sass, chief financial officer of DPH.

"We were very close to putting a deal together," said Sass.

Jimmy Loyce, director of DPH's AIDS office, said that the partnership would have been the right move had it gone forward as planned.

The idea was the right idea, to elevate the level of medical care for people living with HIV/AIDS in the Tenderloin and also able to

in the Tenderloin and also able to recoup the costs for providers for those services," said Loyce.

But others in the community wondered why ADHC had to reach that point at all. Some service providers, speaking privately, noted that despite ADHC CARE funding cuts and last year's Medical rate reductions, many other ADHC programs have continued to exist, whether by addisting their to exist, whether by adjusting their services, seeking FQHC status, or

partnering with FQHC agencies to receive the higher reimbursement. Trimming some of the services in Continuum's ADHC program, as well as having fewer administrative staff positions and lower salaries, they said, may have

lower salaries, they said, may have allowed ADHC to continue.
Cloutier, however, noted that the other ADHC programs are targeted toward seniors, not necessarily HIV-positive people with mental illnesses and addictions, and are better able to provide appropriate care within the boundaries of Medi-Cal reimbursement rates

rates.

"They can do it with less money because the intensity of services for a triple-diagnosed population is very different from someone recovering from a hip replacement, for instance," said

Continuum board President Susan Sachs added that trimming services was not an option when ADHC Medi-Cal eligibility requires certain programs to be in

complicated by what Medi-Cal would reimburse; we can't start playing a la carte with

can't start piaying a la carte with our license in terms of what we provide," said Sachs. Lydia Missealides, executive di-rector of California Association for Adult Day Services, agreed. "Programs that want to con-tinue to provide a high level ser-

tinue to provide a high level service are in a dilemma," said Missealides. "You can cut corners, but sealides. "You can cut corners, but then the quality suffers, or you can wind up being out of compliance with the regulations, and then you get into trouble. We're pretty highly regulated."
Tiffany Mock-Goeman, Con-tinuum's director of operations, said that last year's Medi-Cal re-imbursement reduction was not

imbursement reduction was not so much a change in policy but more of an "out of the blue" change in the way the state inter-preted its own policies. Before the summer of 2004, she said, ADHC could recoup costs for patients at a rate of 86 days per six months, no matter when those days were utilized. The scheme was switched titinged. The scheme was switched to a strict interpretation of three days a week, meaning the agency would not be reimbursed if clients needed extra services during any

Continuum began exploring FQHC partnerships about the same time that this Medi-Cal reimbursement rate changed, said

Sachs.

"We started looking at FQHC opportunities early on," she said.

The DPH partnership seemed to be the solution, said Sachs, and still may be, "if all the internal politics are straightened out." Continuum has put its ADHC license in suspension rather than officially shutting it down, in the hopes that the program may be resur-

### Staff salaries

Staff salaries

As for the staff salaries at Continuum, Cloutier noted that he took a 10 percent pay cut in January – from \$131,840 to \$118,656 – and that salaries are set by the board based upon a survey of comparable nonprofits with budgets in the \$3.5 million range. Attracting and keeping quality staff members, he said, helps to ensure an organization's future.

"We have to ask what kind of

an organization's future.

"We have to ask what kind of organizational infrastructure needs to be sustained now, 25 years into the epidemic, for supporting organizations in the long run," he said. "Would we pay people any differently if we were running a program for post-operative care for people after heart attacks? Those are the kind of comparisons we should be making as opposed to a model that sprang up

and was largely volunteer-driven and financed by donations in the mid-1980s," he said.

mid-1980s," he said.

Cloutier did agree that diversified funding and community partnerships would be necessary for the survival of many nonprofits, particularly as CARÉ dollars to the city are expected to continue the city are expected to continue to decrease over the next five years. The need to explore such partnerships was a big topic for Cloutier during his March interview with the B.A.R., and he said that as executive director of SFAF he hopes to help convene community meeting to discuss and munity meetings to discuss a col-lective response to the epidemic

amidst government cuts.

There still are no official plans for Continuum to merge with another organization, said Cloutier, although a new interim executive director may help to lead the discussion about the agency's future.
Continuum has hired Chiquita
Tuttle – a nonprofit consultant
who has worked with the African
American AIDS Support Services American AiDs Support Services and Survival Institute, Glide Memorial Church, and the East Bay AIDS Advocacy Coalition – to take the position. Tuttle is expect-

ed to start work this week. SFAF still is looking forward to Cloutier taking over as executive director; SFAF policy director Fred Dillon said that the organization has no concerns regarding Cloutier's abilities in light of Con-

tinuum's troubles.

"I think Mark did everything he could to try to save this pro-gram. He came up with innovative and creative solutions to this funding crisis that they were faced

with," said Dillon.
Continuum still has the recontinuum still nas the re-sources to continue as a stand-alone agency, with six other pro-grams that currently are not in fi-nancial trouble, said Cloutier. Such programs include Ten-derloin Care, a storefront primary care clinic; Springboard, a transi-tional care program for people of

tional care program for people of color being released from Califor-nia prisons; Homebase, a transitional program working with peo-ple released from San Francisco ple released from San Francisco County jails; Tenderloin Neigh-borhood Testing, a program pro-viding HIV rapid testing in the Tenderloin and Bayview/Hunters Point; Prevention Case Manage-ment, an HIV prevention pro-gram for female partners of HIV-positive men; and Medi-Cal Waiv-er/Nursing Case Management, which provides nursing and social work services for homebound work services for homebound people with HIV/AIDS. These programs are funded by Title I CARE funds or are able to operate on Medi-Cal reimbursements, he

.. "The rest of the programs actually are growing in terms of new clients," said Cloutier. "There is a very vital and viable organization here without ADHC." Yet ADHC "is kind of the soul

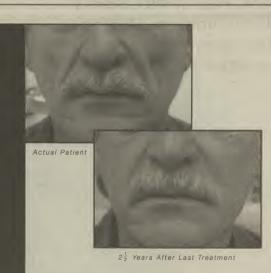
of the organization," acknowledged Cloutier. "It's tragic. We've all been crying about it."

Continuum's immediate goal

is to get its ADHC clients set up with other services, including food banks and mental health agencies, but "there is nothing like" agences, our there's nothing like the adult day health program," said Cloutier. "There's no pro-gram that provides five hours of care with two meals, nurses, activ-ities, and social workers."

Acknowledging the value of ADHC, Tracy Brown, executive director of Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center, told the *B.A.R.* that source Center, told the B.A.R. that he would like to see community partnerships form between HIV/AIDS agencies and existing ADHC programs. He disagreed with the assessment that other ADHC programs do not handle

page 14 >



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# Agency holds poz-friendly dance

By Matthew S. Bajko

art of a growing trend across the country, the Stop AIDS Project will host what believed to be the city's first IIV-positive friendly dance. is believed to be the city's first HIV-positive friendly dance. Called the "Life Dance," the event will take place Friday night of Memorial Day weekend. Its very name is a not so subtle reminder of how AIDS is no longer a death sentence for many

men. Twenty years ago it uld have been hard to imagine HIV-positive guys having the energy, yet alone the spirit, to dance the night away

But with the introduction of protease inhibitors a decade ago, many HIV-positive guys have got-ten their lives back. AIDS for many is now a manageable disease, and while HIV drugs come with harsh side effects, there is

reason to party.
"I think the time is right for it, said Matt Consola, the dance's DJ who has been positive for 12 years. "In the community people are a lot more accepted for being positive. It is not such as big a stigma as it used to be and people aren't afraid to admit that they are posi-

tive."

In addition to being able to return to the workforce, positive men have also returned to the dating pool and are looking for social outlets to meet not only other guys, but other positive guys. Known as serosorting, many positive men prefer to date other pos-

**Guest Opinion** 

erosexual counterparts; and peo-ple with HIV/AIDS have limited employment choices. So long as our community is under attack socially and politically, eliminating barriers to economic opportunity is critical. Employment helps to provide the economic engine and

provide the economic engine and visibility of our movement.

Employment discrimination is especially insidious, because most people spend the majority of the day at work and depend on paid employment for sustenance. Employment discrimination might be the visibility to a help to explain why the average stay of a gay man in San Francisco is four years, and the rate of home-ownership is 6 percent among members of the LGBT communi-Employment discrimination undermines our community, be-cause it prevents us from putting down deeper roots and becoming a more stable, self-sustaining com-

munity.

There's one more thing happening here, too, and it's something to be proud of: our center is the only community center in the nation with a publicly supported economic development department that hosts job fairs for the LGBT community. We make it our mission to provide a community model to cities worldwide. One of the strongest results is making sure job seekers are well prepared for job seekers are well prepared for the actual events, which is achieved through expert panel events, coaching seminars, preregistration preparation, and even one-on-one counseling.

one-on-one counseling.

If you are a job seeker interested in attending Job Fair 5.0, preregister online at www.sfcenter.org and bring copies of your resume. If you are an employer who wants to participate, there's still plenty of time to join Job Fair 5.0. ▼ the spread of HIV or simply to find a partner who understands

what they face on a daily basis.

"A lot of people want to actively meet people who are also positive. They feel more comfortable

tive. They feel more comfortable in a relationship where both people are positive," said Consola.

But aside from the Internet, where one can easily include their being positive in a profile, going out to a gay bar or club often means having to at some point disclose one's estatus to a prosper. disclose one's status to a prospective partner or trick. For some positive men, that can lead to an emotional conversation, even rejection, and ultimately, a reason

not to go out.

Thus, the emergence of the Life

Dance.
"Not everybody who is HIV-fortable letting positive feels comfortable letting people know. Here they can come together and it is understood. They don't have to feel rejected," said Brian Hackett, of Club B Productions, who just moved to San Francisco from Los Angeles in January. Life will be his first event



Positive Force's Michael Cooley

in town. "They can just come to-gether, have a good time and relax. They know it will be a fun, safe atmosphere and they know they won't be rejected.'

The event is a fundraiser for Stop AIDS' Positive Force and is similar to the concept behind Club Poz, which began in Los Angeles about two years ago

"It's about bringing together friendly, like statuses. It's a way to introduce them to each other and introduce them to each other and having sex with each other and not having to worry about spread-ing HIV to each other," said Michael Cooley, interim Positive Force program manager. "Here you don't have to initiate a conversation about disclosure in a way they might get rejected. In this case it pretty much is out there from the start that you are

positive."

Also, Cooley said the dance is a chance to reach younger positive guys who may not attend a lecture or other event put on by Stop AIDS but will go out clubbing.

"A lot of this is about trying to reach out to a community of reach out to a community of sources positive guys in a differ.

younger positive guys in a differ-ent way that isn't about an HIV intervention," he said. "What we found is a lot of people who come through our PLUS seminar are young but the people who stay and participate in our programs tend to be 35-plus. They have support networks and are pretty well served. They are not really the

high-risk population."

Apart from having plenty of condoms and lube to give out, Cooley said the agency will not have any forms, as is typical at its

nave any forms, as is typical at its other events and programs, for dance attendees to fill out. "The focus here is really to have fun. We want it to be some-thing authentic, with real DJs, real go-go boys, and a real VIP lounge," he said.

Buzz is already building around the event. After the first ads appeared without a date or time, Consola said he was swamped with e-mails from peo-

ple wanting to attend.

"If this one goes off well, Brian is going to do this on a regular basis, maybe monthly," said Consola, who reduced his usual DI fee to help keep costs of the dance

Life Dance will take place 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. Friday, May 27 at Club Hide, 280 7th Street. Regular tickets cost \$10 while VIP tickets cost \$20. Tickets will be sold at the door or in advance at www.club-b-productions.com. ▼

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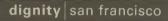
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TARC's mission is to lessen the incidence of HIV infection, disease progression and homelessness among the residents of the Tenderloin neighborhood using harm reduction philosophy TARC



# IML says 'no' to drugs

by Zak Szymanski

s members of the leather s members of the leather community and larger LGBT circles prepare for the 26th International Mister Leather competition in Chicago next weekend, organizers of the event have a message for atten-dees; leave your drugs behind, or

Front and center on the IML Web site (www.imrl.com) is not a sexy icon or enticing blurb, but rather, a warning: "As Chicago prepares to welcome the world, prepares to welcome the world, the producers of International Mister Leather want to tell some people to STAY HOME," the site announces. "We have no use for crystal meth at any of our functions. Dealers, if you show up, we will not kick you out. We'll call the polical."

police!"

IML ran similar announcements as advertisements in Chica-go area publications, according to Bill Stadt, organizer of the compe-tition. The no-nonsense message stems from several recent arrests and incidents involving crystal and incidents involving crystal meth, said Stadt, and community members and contest organizers deciding that "enough is enough." IML's proactive approach, said Stadt, is just one of many in a city-wide effort to address the crystal meth epidemic in the Windy City. In March, a meeting of Chicago area bar owners took place to address crystal meth and to discuss medical as well as legal responses to patrons who use drugs. In April,

to patrons who use drugs. In April, a Chicago area gay bar was raided a Chicago area gay bar was raided and four patrons were arrested for alleged crystal meth possession, according to an article in the Windy City Times, although the bar owner later disputed the article, claiming that the patrons had cocaine, not crystal. Also in April, bar owners began hanging signs in their windows advertising their establishments as "meth-free" cones. Most reaction to the IML campaign has been "extremely positive," said Stadt, although "some people are in shock" over the tone of the message and the prominent place it occupies in the announce-

place it occupies in the announcement for the event.

In San Francisco, members of the leather and LGBT community expressed mixed opinions, with some believing that addicts and users would benefit more from outreach and prevention at the event than from harsher messages.

Audrey Joseph – a longtime or-ganizer of clubs and parties that have been popular with the leather community—said that she has successfully used security patdowns at her events as a way of discouraging drug use, and that many of her parties have wel-comed harm reduction advocates comed harm reduction advocates to help prevent overdoses and other drug-related emergencies. But while sympathetic to IML concerns, she questioned the effectiveness of IML's campaign because of the large numbers of people who attend the Chicago festivities, including many who are not affiliated with the leather community at all.



The International Mr. Leather Web site has a stark warning for people planning to bring drugs to the upcoming contest.

"By making that announce-ment I don't think you discourage anybody, you just don't look too friendly," said Joseph. "In addition to what the event is for the leather community, International Mr. Leather has become a part of the circuit scene. Circuit boys may not attend the leather events but they will certainly attend all the parties;

whitertainly attend at the parties; that's part of their scene." There are no pat-downs or bag checks at official IML events, said Stadt, who agreed that many of the drugs present during the course of the IML weekend come

from the circuit crowd.
"There is some crossover [between the leather and circuit crowds]," Stadt acknowledged, but he emphasized the diversity of he emphasized the diversity of populations in attendance. "You've got your hardcore leather people and the title groups and the leather community, and then I think you have the people who come for the outside dance parties or to yie's the leather market."

or to visit the leather market."

As far as outreach to those who need help with substances, Stadt noted that for the 15th consecu-tive year, IML will provide leather recovery meetings for all members of 12-step programs. The meetings will be held twice each day at the host hotel, providing a safe space to gather and deal with the excitement and temptations of the excitement and temptations of the weekend. Additionally, an educational brochure about substances also will be in all of the IML bags that guests receive.

Michael Siever, Ph.D., director of the Stonewall Project in San Francisco and the Web Site

Tweaker.org, which offers non-judgmental information to crystal meth users, said that while he may not agree with the effectiveness of

not agree with the effectiveness of IML's message, the campaign is not upsetting to him.

"I'm not big on the justice system approach to drugs, I don't think it works very well. How many years have we been fighting the war on drugs?" said Siever. "But in some ways I'm glad to see these messages, that it's not okay. There ought to be some discus-

sion about this. We kind of accept shot about this. We kind of accept that it's okay for some people to make a profit off other people's downfall. There are a lot of gay men who sell speed to other gay men, and that certainly merits some discussion as to how people feel about that."

San Francisco Police Officer Len Broberg, who won the title of Inter-national Mr. Leather 1992, praised IML organizers for their hard-line

IML organizers for their hard-line stance against drugs and dealers.
"It is something, that is possibly long overdue," said Broberg, noting that the threat of jair is aimed at dealers when the dealers within our community." As far as drug users go, said Broberg, sometimes tough love works better than a welcoming message. "People with addictions and the same than a welcoming message. "People with addictions are said and the same than a welcoming message." People with addictions are said to the same than a welcoming message. "People with addictions are said to the said that the said th ing message. "People with addictions or problems sometimes have

tions or problems sometimes have to hit rock bottom before they get help or take ownership and re-sponsibility," he said. Broberg said that the buzz cre-ated by IML's campaign means the message in many ways has already been successful.

"Anytime people create an en-vironment that provokes discus-sion about problems – and possi-ble solutions which may ultimate-

ble solutions which may ultimately end up saving someone's life – I think that's a good thing," he said. It is unclear how much will actually change at IML in terms of drug policies; Stadt emphasized that the threat of police intervention was aimed at dealers, but said. tion was aimed at dealers, but said there is no protocol in place for identifying alleged dealers. Addi-tionally, said Stadt, drug policies are determined by the venues where events take place and the hotels that house guests, not IML organizers.

Thus, notifying law enforce-ment of any incidents likely will happen on case by case basis in ac-cordance with policies of the es-tablishments, and "we're not going to hide or cover for anyone," said Stadt.

The message remains important, said Stadt, that "the core people of IML are not interested in drugs. That's not what we're about."

### Continuum

**▼** page 12

multiple diagnoses, noting that people with Alzheimer's and other medical issues have needs that are similar to people with mental ill-nesses and HIV/AIDS. Brown said that TARC is al-

ready doing intake for some of

Continuum's soon to be former clients and his organization will provide them with case management and treatment adherence. But because of a state moratorium on creating new ADHC programs, he said, many agencies feel "their hands are tied" in terms of what

they can offer.
Expanding one of the existing ADHC programs to accommo-

date Continuum's clients, he said, would ensure ongoing support for residents in need of this level of care. The other existing ADHC programs care for residents fac-ing multiple diagnoses, and we need to encourage these providers to ensure that care for people living with HIV/AIDS becomes one of their specialties, as well."

# France: Weak dollar beckons gay travelers

by Ed Walsh

mid the cobblestone streets of picturesque Tours,
France, about an hour train
ride outside Paris, is something
very familiar to gay San Franciscans. It had its genesis in a 20year-old souvenir from San Francisco. In 1985, Bruno Massonpisrt's friend visited San Francisco. rrs's friend visited San Francisco and gave him a T-shirt he bought and gave him a T-shirt he bought at the Stud bar emblazoned with the words "The Stud San Francisco." He held on to the shirt. He eventually found a good use for it. Two years ago, he opened "The Stud" in Tours. That T-shirt is now framed and prominently displayed in his popular bar. "There are only three bars in the world with that name," Massonpisrrs boasted to the Bay Area Reporter. "The others are in Montreal and San Francisco," he explained in a thick French accent. Tours is part of the Loire Valley, in

Tours is part of the Loire Valley, in Western France



Landmark: The Eiffel Tower

It's becoming more attractive to American visitors to France be-cause it contains most of the charms of Paris but with a lower price tag, a growing concern considering the relatively weak dollar. Hotels in the Loire Valley run for about 40-50 percent less than

those in Paris. The regional tourism offices in Western France hope that its lower sticker price and its very gay-welcoming atmosphere will attract more gay and lesbian tourists who would otherwise sel-dom venture out of Paris out of concern that they wouldn't be welcome.

More on Paris later, first some More on Paris later, first some highlights of the relatively undis-covered gay-welcoming Loire Val-ley, an area known for its castles, wine industry, and old French

Tours is the largest populated city of the Loire Valley, with about 300,000 people and plenty of gay



The Maire District in Paris is the gayest part of the city.

venues. Its also boasts one of the largest student populations of France. About 10 percent of resi-

dents are students.

Tours' gay and lesbian association, Tours Angels, hosts a wide array of groups for every interest, from restaurant groups to sports. Its monthly meeting, held last

Its monthly meeting, held last month at the popular gay bar, La P'tite Chose, drew an overflow crowd, nearly equally divided between gay men and lesbians.

Other gay gathering places include Le GI, a disco that draws a big crowd of men and women and is most popular on weckends. By the way, GI is not a military reference. It stands for "gay inside." The aforementioned Stud is a men's cruising bar with a backroom. Le Glasgow bar is predominately lesbian.

Tours also has a gay sauna, Les Themes de Grammont. Gay-friendly restaurants include L'He-

### Orleans

Also about an hour's train ride Also about an hour's train ride out of Paris, the city of Orleans is where New Orleans got its name. Orleans is the second-largest city of the Loire Valley. It boasts one predominantly gay bar, Le P'tite Cafe and several gay-friendly ones. It also has a small but popular gay sauna, Savon, and a second sauna is expected to open there by sauna is expected to open there by the summer. The Hotel de l'Abeille, or Hotel of the Bee, is gay-owned and very welcoming. It's a charming hotel with a lot of old-world French furnishings and décor. Rates start at around \$55, a bargain by Paris standards and it includes free WiFi Internet access.

Orleans' main square features a statue of Joan of Arc on a horse as its centerpiece. Joan of Arc helped liberate Orleans from the English in 1429 and remains the most revered figure in Orleans. The town is on the Loire River, where mariners used to unload wine shipments destined for Paris. wine snipments desuned for Paris. Each summer it hosts the Orleans Jazz Festival. Orleans' spectacular Parc Floral de La Soure would give Golden Gate Park a run for its

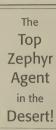
### Amboise

Amboise is about a three-hour train ride from Paris. Popular attractions there include the estate where Leonardo da Vinci spent the last years of his life. Gay-owned accommodations in Amboise include the upscale Manoir

les Minimes and Le Clos d'Amboise. Another gay-owned hotel is also a restaurant. It's Le Pavillon des Lys. For about \$40, including taxes and tip, which is included in the bill in France, you can have an elegant eight-course dinner that you could easily pay five times as much for in Paris or San Francis-

Amboise has a gay-owned castle guesthouse. It's Chateu des Ormeaux. Rates in one of its ele-

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HICHAEL

# **Federal court strikes** down Nebraska marriage amendment

federal judge struck down the Nebraska constitution-al amendment that banned same-sex marriage and recogni-tion of any other type of relationtion of any other type of relationship between such couples. The May 12 decision called the amendment overly broad and restrictive of gay people's access to the political process. The ruling will be appealed.

In 2000, 70 percent of voters passed what became Section 29 of the Nebraska Constitution. It declared "Only marriage between a

clared: "Only marriage between a man and a woman shall be valid man and a woman shall be valid or recognized in Nebraska. The uniting of two persons of the same sex in a civil union, domes-tic partnership, or other similar same-sex relationship shall not be valid or recognized in Nebraska."

valid or recognized in Nebraska."
In 2003, at the request of a state legislator, the Nebraska attorney general issued an opinion that the amendment prohibited the Legislature from adopting a bill to allow a domestic partner with power of attorney to dispose of his or her partners remains of his or her partner's remains. In his decision, U.S. District

Judge Joseph Batallion found "that Section 29 is indistinguishable from the Colorado constitutional amendment" that the U.S. Supreme Court struck down in Romer v. Evans. That landmark 1996 equal protection decision found that Colorado's antigay Amendment 2 excluded gays from the political process and thus was unconstitutional.
"Like the amendment at issue

in Romer, Section 29 attempts to impose a broad disability on a single group," Batallion wrote. "Also, as in Romer, the lack of connections to the section of the section o tion between the reach of the amendment and its purported purpose is so attenuated that it provides evidence that Section 29 has no rational relationship to any legitimate state interest

'Moreover, the court finds that "Moreover, the court finds that Section 29 was designed against the class it affects, making it status-based. ... [It] goes so far beyond defining marriage that the court can only conclude that the intent and purpose of the amendant is had be expired some that the ment is based on animus against the class" of people known as gay

or lesbian.

Batallion also concluded that the amendment "operates to prohibit persons in a same-sex relationship from working to ever obtain governmental benefits or legal recognition, a right they had before the presence (Section 10.9). legal recognition, a right they had before the passage of Section 29." He agreed with plaintiffs' argument that it was "an unconstitutional bill of attainder."

David Buckel, an attorney with Lambda Legal Defense and Edu-cation Fund, one of the groups that filed the lawsuit, said the amendment was "in its own class as the most extreme, antigay law in the entire nation. ... This anti-gay-union law, in effect, hung a sign on the door of the Legislature saying 'same-sex couples not allowed."

"The judge was clear that states can't enact amendments that bar gay people from the democratic process," said Amy Miller. The attorney with the ACLU of Nebraska helped to argue the case. "This decision doesn't mean that gay people can marry, get a civil union, or a domestic partnership, but it guarantees gay people the right to lobby their state lawmakers for those protections.

ers for those protections."
Social conservatives wasted no time in criticizing the decision. "This is a blatant display of judicial arrogance where a non-elected federal judge has shown total disregard for what 70 percent of Nebraska voters stated, marriage

is between one man and one woman," said Tony Perkins, presi-dent of the Family Research

"The democratic voice of the people of Nebraska was muted people of Neoraska was muted today by a federal judge," said Matt Daniels in Washington, D.C. He is president of the Alliance for Marriage, which is pushing for the Marriage Protection Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. He said it is coming down "to a race be-tween the [MPA] and the American courts.

can courts."

Local editorials, if not entirely embracing the decision, sought a workable political compromise.

The Lincoln Journal Star called Batallion's decision "a classic illustration of why federal judges are producted because 70 percent. not elected ... because 70 percent of those who voted in the 2000

of those who voted in the 2000 election supported the amendment doesn't make it automatically constitutional. The law is not simply about majority rule."
"Politicians were quick to bloviate;" began an editorial by the Omaha World-Herald in urging everyone to "just take a deep breath and consider all of the options."

The paper urged the Legisla-ture's dominant Republicans to "spare the taxpayers the expense of an appeal" and it outlined a definition of marriage as it stands

on man and one woman" even while negotiating a domestic part-nership law."

That outcome might not be as remote as the 2000 vote suggests. The same day that the court decision came down, the Legislature fell only one vote short of adding sexual orientation protection for all state employees to the state budget bill. But by a 25 to 11 vote it did add that protection for employees at four state research in-stitutions.

### **News briefs**

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FTMs, MTFs, drag, crossdressers, bi, two-spirit, non-gender, queers, and those who transcend the binary gender system, along with their friends, family, and allies.

The picnic is a temporary autonomous space, belonged to and created by those who come – there created by those who come - there is no central organizing committee. People are asked to bring food, drinks, and lollypops to share, and their creativity to make the afternoon a success

### Memorial for slain New Jersey lesbian

Local activists will come together Sunday, May 22 to hold a memorial for Sakia Gunn, a 15memorial for Sakia Gunn, a 15-year-old black lesbian who was murdered in a hate crime two years ago in Newark, New Jersey. The memorial takes place at 2 p.m. at Harvey Milk Plaza, Castro and Market streets, in San Francisco. Speakers will include Calvin Gipson, Zwazzi Sowo, Cecilia Chung, Peter Wong, Fresh White, and others.

Gunn was stabbed to death on a downtown street in May 2003 while she and four other girls were waiting for a bus in downtown Newark. Richard McCullough, 30, was charged with the crime and pleaded guilty earlier this year to aggravated manslaughter, aggra-vated assault, and bias intimidation. McCullough was sentenced last month to 20 years in prison,

according to the Associated Press.
"This remembrance pays respect to a young lesbian whose life was unfairly abbreviated by homophobic violence," said Wong.

### Rainbow center benefit

Contra Costa County's Rainbow Community Center will hold its "Honors IX" gala Sunday, May 22, from 1 to 5:30 p.m. at the Contra Costa Country Club, 801 Golf Club Road, in Pleasant Hill. This Club Road, in Pleasant Hill. This year's event will honor local chapters of Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays in Danville/San Ramon, Rossmoor/Walnut Creek, and Walnut Creek/Diablo Valley. The Corporate Support Award will be given to Markstein Beverage of Pittsburg. The event starts with an auc-

The event starts with an auction preview, no-host cocktails and hors d'oeuvres and a silent auction. Brunch will be served as 2, and the program, entertainment, and a live auction will follow. Tickets are \$75. For more information, call (925) 692-0090.

### Asian street fair Sunday

The first Asian Heritage Street Celebration takes place Sunday, May 22 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Japantown in San Francisco (Post

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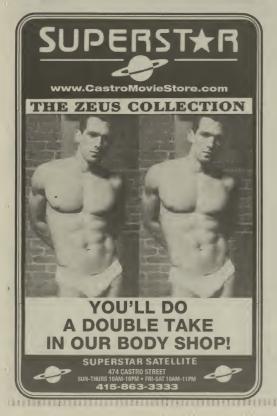
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# McPherson vows silence in amendment fight

by Matthew S. Bajko

prepares to fight a proposed state constitutional amendment banning gay marriage, expected to be on the ballot in 2006, the voice of one of the few moderate Republicans in state politics will be silent.

Newly installed Secretary of State Bruce McPherson is vowing to remain neutral when it come to state initiatives and any amend ments to the state's constitution. Citing his office's role in verifying signatures for such ballot mea-sures, McPherson said it would be inappropriate for him to weigh in on the issues.

"I do not think I should take a

position on initiatives," said McPherson, the keynote speaker at the annual meeting of the state Log Cabin Republicans, who met in San Francisco last weekend. "It is not my place to say you should vote for this or that. That is not me, though I know some of you would like a more activist secretary of state."

As a state lawmaker from the Monterey area, McPherson introduced legislation to make the secthe telegislation to make the sec-retary of state's office nonpartisan. While the bill never made it out of the Legislature, McPherson has vowed to stay out of most politi-cal fights while in office.

Though he did give one caveat to his self-imposed ban: anything that impacts the state's voting systems or how his office operates. McPherson said he would weigh in on those matters.

In on those matters.

When asked specifically by a reporter if he would not take a position on the constitutional amendment that is expected to be on next year's ballot, McPherson replied, "I was against Proposition 22 and I am going to leave it at that. If I did say something there would be people who would want me to take a position on healthme to take a position on health-care and immigration and that is not where I think I should be.



Sec. of State Bruce McPherson

McPherson has a mixed track record on extending rights to gay couples. He did not back Proposition 22, the measure voters passed in 2000 that defined marriage as between a man and a woman and stipulated the state did not have to supulated in state dut in of nave to recognize gay marriages per-formed in other states. But as a state senator, he voted against AB205, the domestic partnership bill that took effect in January and extends nearly all the same rights married couples receive to samesex couples that register with the

Log Cabin member Chris Bowman, a member of the local Republican County Central Committee, said he was pleased to hear McPherson wanted to take a neutral stand. Bowman said it mirrors reforms he worked on to make the city attorney's office neutral on local measures.

"If you come out against something the voters approve, you are going to have a problem," said Bowman. "You can't have him show favoritism to one side or the

show favoritism to one side or the other. He is taking the high road by remaining neutral."

Asked about McPherson's comments, Equality California Executive Director Geoffrey Kors said it was a good step for McPherson to take and hopes he

applies the same neutral stance to-ward candidates running for of-

"A strong argument could be made for why the person who oversees elections should not be taking positions on issues or can-didates that they are going to be overseeing the elections for," said

Due to McPherson's past opposition to domestic partnerships, Kors said he was more concerned about his overseeing the state's domestic partners registry, which is the responsibility of the secretary of state.

"It is something we are watching closely," he said.

Governor Schwarzenegger asked McPherson to take over the secretary of state's office after former Secretary of State Kevin Shelley resigned amid accusations of mismanaged funds, harassment of employees, and narassment or employees, and questions about his campaign fi-nances. McPherson joked that the governor called him and said, "Two hundred people have re-fused this job, would you just take

McPherson, a fourth genera-McPherson, a fourth genera-tion Santa Cruz native, won unan-imous backing in the Legislature. On the job for six weeks, he said, "the office is a mess." Though he added that Shelley "is a friend of mine. I am not getting personal." The former editor of the Santa Cruz Sentinel McPherson has

Cruz Sentinel, McPherson has long had ties to Log Cabin. In 1996 the gay Republican group honored him for his service in the Assembly

Assembly.

"Log Cabin always found an open door to his office," said Jeff Bissiri, the California chapter's executive director. "It was no surprise to us that Governor Schwarzenegger sought him out to bring trust and integrity back to a scandal-plagued office."

While one Log Cabin member

While one Log Cabin member told him he already had the group's endorsement, McPherson said he will decide this summer if he will run for a full term in 2006. ▼

### Gay GOPer

Republican legislators will no longer be afraid to vote in favor of gay rights legislation.
"I think their having a fulltime person in Sacramento is a definite

asset," said Geoff Kors, Equality California executive director. reflaving Log Cabin up there will prove beneficial as we move forward and change the absolute bloc by Republicans in the Legislature on behalf of LGBT civil rights legislative?

Terry Hamilton, who was Terry Hamilton, who was elected Log Cabin's new state chairman Saturday, said Bissir's being a Republican will no doubt open doors previously closed to other gay lobbyists.

"Jeff can speak to them in ways others in the LGBT community may not be able to do and get them to support our bills" add them to support our bills "add them to support our bills" and them to support our bills "add them to support our bills" and them to support our bills "add them to support our bills" and the support our bills "add the support our bills" an

them to support our bills," said Hamilton, former president of the

Log Cabin Los Angeles chapter.
Already, Bissiri's presence is having an impact. Two Republican Assembly members he met with, Keith Richman of Northridge and Lynn Daucher of Brea, voted for Yee's bill, which Kors noted "was two more than we had in the past. It is definitely a step in the right direction.

After Bissiri met with senior After Bissin met with senior members of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's staff, the governor last week issued his second letter in support of gay Pride. Soon, he hopes to meet Schwarzenegger. "Scheduling-wise it hear? It have the proposed but I have to be a senior of the source of the senior of it hasn't happened but I hope to meet with the governor in the coming months," said Bissiri.

### From architect to activist

While Bissiri had served as Log Cabin's state chair and L.A. chap-Cabins state chair and L.A. chapter president, he was nonetheless a surprise pick to run its Sacramento office. The single 46-year-old with boyishly good looks is an architect by training. However, his mid-career change was an easy choice to make

choice to make.

"This is a unique point in time of our civil rights struggle. I saw it as an opportunity to be a part of it," he said. And he added that his past roles with Log Cabin "re-quired media relations, lobbying and chapter building, and all the things I am being asked to do

Despite his move north, Bissiri decided to maintain the condo he owns in his hometown of Los Angeles. The state's capital, he said, is "a lot different, in good ways and bad. You have the small town feel and my apartment is downtown so I can walk everywhere and drive rarely. But there are times

when I miss the fast pace of L.A."

In the short time he has spent in Sacramento, Bissiri has seen firsthand how beneficial it is to have someone ready at a mo-ment's notice, whether to meet with a legislator or race to a comnittee hearing on proposed legis-

"It's been very clear why our presence is needed. The ebb and flow dynamic of Sacramento re-quires a fulltime presence there,"

In the last two months Bissiri has been making the rounds, meeting with a handful of lawmakers. Though he admitted, "word is just getting out" about his being in town. He has met with members of the LGBT Legislative Caucus, including Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco), John Laird (D-Santa Cruz) and the staff of state Senator Carole Migden (D-San Francisco). In addition to Republicans Richman and Daucher, he has met with Assemblywoman Bonnie Garcia (R-Palm Springs) and the staff of As-

next page

### FTFA

**◀** page **1** 

struggled financially for years,

struggled financially for years, with losses reported as far back as fiscal year 2001. According to the most recent available 990 forms filed with the IRS, the organization saw a loss of about \$10,000 from July 2000-June 2001, and an additional loss of \$73,433 from July 2001-June 2002.

Additionally, FTFA had not been paying its payroll taxes, which reportedly came as a shock to both Bose and board President Bennie Ferma. Outstanding payroll tax debt totaled about \$15,000. The organization could not get on its feet in time to renew its contract with the San Francisco Department of Public Health, Department of Public Health, which funded its main programs and most of its \$150,000 budget.

and most of its \$150,000 budget.

In last week's interview with
the B.A.R., Bose said that a complex set of circumstances – from
mismanaged records to a handsoff board of directors and lack of
oversight – led to the organization's downfall. He also said that
DPH as well as the HIV/AIDS
community could have done
more to help FTFA, and that
specifically, the Asian and Pacific specifically, the Asian and Pacific Islander Wellness Center had become a mistrusted "rival" that could not be depended upon for

In response to that article, FTFA's board issued a unified statement this week announcing its plans to physically leave its current location in the Mission District but to remain incorporated. trict but to remain incorporated as an organization and explore partnerships with other groups so that Filipino-specific HIV/AIDS services can be offered to community members in need, FTFA does not need to file for bankruptcy, ac-

cording to the board.

"FTFA has terminated the services of Efren Bose as executive director of FTFA, and any state-ments from him representing FTFA will no longer be valid," said the board's statement, which was

plans for the organization.

"FTFA will continue to exist as an organization. It will be run by an organization. It will be run by volunteers, at a smaller office space. Details will be disclosed to the community in June," the statement continued. "FTFA will be closing its main programs – the MSM and transgender programs – on June 30."

Board members went on to state that they were taking mea-sures to address FTFA's debt and on hosting some fundraising activities. They also emphasized that they "continue to recognize the value of our partnership with community allies such as the API Wellness Center."

As a result of the B.A.R. article about FTFA's troubles, former

FTFA board, staff, volunteers, and clients "have come forward to 'save FTFA," according to the board statement. "We have had at least three informal offers from partner organizations to house FTFA as we go through this transition period. We are exploring

these possibilities."

Board member Michael Mag-Board member Michael Mag-naye told the B.A.R. that he was surprised by Bose's comments to the press, particularly since the board had already met and decid-ed not to disband the organiza-tion. Bose's airing of personal business, said Magnaye, was also unprofessional

unprofessional.
"It was rather insubordinate of "It was rather insubordinate of his board, disrespectful to the community and the clients that he was charged to serve, and inconsiderate of the staff in the organization," Magnaye told the B.A.R. "People were jolted, and jarred." Ferma, who referred to Bose's statements as "a verbal hemorrhage," agreed.

"We had a board meeting the week before he talked for the arti-

cle and thought we had agreed what to say and what our stance was," said Ferma. "What he said was not the position that was agreed upon."

Bose, who spoke to the B.A.R.

just minutes after he was terminated, said he was "shocked" by the board's decision, but believes his statements may have helped to rally the community behind

FTFA.
"I figured I would end up being the scapegoat anyway, so hopefully now the board will jump into action. At least I got some response from them after some response from them after God knows how long," said Bose. "They've never taken an interest and at least finally they'll be able to see the numbers and get to do it themselves. I wish them the best of luck, but it seems they have suddenly taken an interest, which

may be way too little way too late." Bose said that his concern is for the remaining staff as well as FTFA's clients.

Ferna said the organization is coordinating with several HIV/AIDS organizations to figure out how best to place the population served by FTFA.

In a separate statement, Rene Astudillo, executive director of the Asian American Journalists Association and former board member and executive director of FTFA, said that while some clients would be served well by API Wellness Center, others might need cultur-ally specific services through Fil-

ipino-specific organizations.
Astudillo said he was confident that some of FTFA's services could

survive.

"There is a reason the organization was named a 'task force'. It had a specific task it needed to accomplish – that of providing culturally appropriate and ethnic specific HIV/AIDS prevention and client care services. It was founded as a direct response to the high number of Filipinos with HIV/AIDS – the highest among all Asians & Pacific Islanders. I don't think that the task has been don't think that the task has been fully accomplished," said Astudillo. "I have had informal discussions with other Filipino community leaders and we are committed to help save FTFA or at least some of its vital service

FTFA staff and board members are hosting a community forum on Monday May 23 at 6 p.m. at the FTFA office, 109 Bartlett Street, Suite 200, in San Francisco. (Bartlett is located between Mission and Valencia and between 23rd and 22nd streets.) Those interested in strending should DSVP. terested in attending should RSVP by calling (415) 920-2630. ▼

### Gay GOPer

previous page

semblywoman Shirley Horton (R-

"They are the most approachable on most issues of importance to the LGBT community," said

Last week he met with state Republican Party Chair Duf Sund-heim, who appointed Bissiri, as well as Los Angeles Log Cabin chapter members David Rappel and Paul Fredrix, to the party's ex-

and Paul Fredrix, to the party's ex-ecutive committee. "It is the first time three open-ly gay men are on the committee," Bissiri noted.

One office he didn't bother to visit before the hearings on the gay marriage ban was Haynes's, since Bissiri said, "on this issue I considered it a waste of time." Nor does he expect to see any Republicans vote in favor of Leno's gay marriage bill, despite Log Cabin's backing of the measure. "Part of it is I am not certain a majority of Californians have

majority of Californians have been persuaded yet on marriage equality. Though they certainly are moving in our direction. It is inevitable that they will be," he said. "Today, a majority of regis-tered California Republicans support either domestic partnerships or marriage rights."

or marriage rights."

As Equality California sponsors legislation introduced by law-makers, Bissiri said it is possible Log Cabin would introduce its own sponsored legislation next year. Certainly, he said the two groups could work jointly on legislative measures. "We are going to have our disagreements from time to time. But certainly, there is

have our disagreements from time to time. But certainly there is plenty of common ground for us to work together," said Bissiri.

Just as Democratic leaning groups like EQCA and Marriage Equality California are expanding their presence in the Central Valley, Log Cabin also intends to make inroads into the state's more conservative. Republican areas Its. make inroads into the state's more conservative, Republican areas. Its Sacramento chapter is the first not on the coast, and Log Cabin chap-ters in Chico and Fresno should be formed by the end of the year. On the shoreline, a new chapter in

On the shoreline, a new chapter in Santa Barbara is already formed. "Wherever there are Republi-cans, there are going to be gay Re-publicans," said Bissiri. ▼

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### France

**▼** page 15

gantly-decorated rooms start at about \$125.

For those on a tight budget, the lesbian-owned bar, Café' des Arts, has basement rooms for under \$40 per night. It's in a great location, just across from the city's popular tourist attraction, the castle Chateau d'Amboise.

Whatever stops visitors make in France, Paris is usually the jumping off point. With its popu-lation of 2.2 million, or nearly 12 million if you count its suburbs, the City of Lights has the population to sustain countless gay and lesbian bars, restaurants, and dis-

cos. Paris also has an openly gay mayor, Bertrand Delanoe. The gayest part of Paris is the Maire (pronounced mare-EYE) district. It borders Paris' dividing line, the Seine River. By the way, Paris started as a small city on an island in the middle of the Seine. It gradually spread to both banks of the river and beyond. The Notre Dame Cathedral, the crown pewel in the original island of Paris, is directly across the river from the Maire. The gay neigh-borhood extends for several blocks from the Seine and is roughly bordered on one side by Sebastopol Boulevard and Rue

Sebastopol Boulevard and Rue Saint Paul on the other. The sub-way stations that stop in the Maire are Saint Paul and Hotel de Ville.

Parisians generally eat late, about 9 or 10 p.m. Afterwards, they go to the bars which stay open until 2 a.m. Discos usually ay open until dawn and usually on't get crowded until after 2 don't get crowded until after 2 a.m. Paris' most popular gay disco, Queen, is not in the Maire. It's on Paris' most famous thoroughfare, the Champs-Elysees. It's just down the street from the Arc de Tri-umph, Paris' second most famous landmark after the Eiffel Tower.

A couple of popular lesbian bars in the Maire are the Bliss Kfe and the 3W Kafe. With the exception of the weekend gay discos. most bars in Paris are relatively small, about the size of the Twin double as sex clubs with back rooms that are as big as their front rooms. The city also has numer-

ous gay saunas. Paris' unofficial gay beach is situated along the Seine River, about a 15-20 minute walk from the a 15-20 minute waik from the Maire, across from France's national museum, the Louvre. You'll find gay couples and singles strolling along and sunbathing. The gayest part is near the boat dock for the Batobus tour company.

Gay-welcoming accommodations in Paris include the charming Grand Hotel de Champagne. The historic stone building was constructed in 1562 and is centrally located within a 10-minute walk distance of the Maire, the Louvre, or the gay beach. Rates start about \$135.

Hotel Central Marias, as the name implies, is in the center of the Marias. Its seven rooms are over Le Central, the oldest gay bar in the Marias. Le Central bar first opened for business in 1980. Rates at the Hotel Central Marias start around \$95.

Popular upscale gay-friendly hotels include the Hotel Splendid Etoile, a short walk from the Etoile, a short walk from the Queen disco and a block away from the Arc de Triomphe. The modern Ambassador Hotel is managed by an openly gay man, Loic Le Berre, and is centrally located near the Paris Opera House. Rooms at Hotel Splendid start at around \$235. The Ambassador. around \$235. The Ambassador starts around \$430, but like most high-end hotels in Paris, it is open

### Money

France is on the euro currency system. Because of the relatively weak dollar, a euro will cost you about \$1.20 U.S. According to French tourism officials, the lower dollar is causing Americans to spend about the same amount of money but they are opting to stay in less expensive hotels. The flip in less expensive notels. Ine flip side of that is that higher end ho-tels are willing to negotiate their price to fill up rooms. Also, check out the travel sites such as Trave-locity.com, Expedia.com, Hotwire.com, and Priceline.com for hotel deals. Most hotels in

France charge extra for breakfast, but you may be able to negotiate that breakfast be included.

In most cases, the price you see is the price you get. France's sales tax of 19.6 percent is included in the final price. Also, a service charge is included in the posted price at restaurants. This are not price at restaurants. Tips are not expected although it is customary to round out the bill with small change if you get good service. It's customary to tip cab drivers about

You can eat a quick lunch in a low-end restaurant in Paris for as little as \$10. To save money, look for a prix fixe menu. That consists of an entrée and side dishes already selected. If you want to commit the unpardonable sin, as this reporter did, you can eat plen-ty of American fast food in Paris. You can expect to pay as much as \$3.60 for a Big Mac but a sand-wich at a Subway restaurant will run you only slightly more than it would in the U.S.

### The sights

A circular sightseeing tour bus is a good way to see the major sites in Paris including the Louvre Mu-seum, Notre Dame Cathedral, Champs-Elysees, Arc de Triomphe, and the Eiffel Tower. The buses will allow you to get on and off where you want. A two-day pass costs less than \$35. The two major bus companies are Les Cars Rouges (lescarsrouges.com) and L'Opentour (paris-opentour.com).

### For more information

France makes it easy because it includes the best gay links in its official tourism sites: www.FranceGuide.com, click www.Francesunec.com, chic on gay friendly France sec-tion. You can also order a free newly updated gay France booklet through the site by clicking on the "Info and Brochures" tab. For information specific

to the Loire Valley, including Tours, Orleans and Amboise: www.WesternFranceTourist-Board.com. Check out the gay travel section.

### News briefs

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Street between Laguna and Fillmore). Sponsored by the Asian Week Foundation and local busiheld in conjunction with Asian Pa-cific American Heritage Month. The event will feature food, arts and crafts, community booths, and live entertainment. Ted Fang, one of the organizers, said that more than 60 different APA community groups are expected to participate. Organizers hope to turn the celebration into an annual event that will foster unity among the Bay Area's many Asian ethnic groups. Proceeds from the street fair will be

donated to charity.

For more information, visit www.asianfairsf.com.

### Job fair next week

The LGBT Community Center's economic development team is hosting its fifth job fair Wednes-day, May 25 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the center, 1800 Market Street in San Francisco. David Bach, who has helped organize the center's job fairs, said that the event would include over 20 corporate employers. Participants include American Express, Bank of Amer-ica, Citibank, Johnson & Johnson, California State Automobile Association, Wells Fargo Bank, Target, Macy's West, and the San Francisco Police Department.

Available positions include customer service, administrative, sales, technology, management, and marketing and advertising.

There is no fee for job seekers;

but resumes are required.
For more information, call Bach at (415) 865-5534.

### Legal Briefs II'

The AIDS Legal Referral Panel is back with its "Legal Briefs II" fundraiser, which takes place Thursday, May 26 at the LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market Street, in San Francisco. ALRP staff confirmed Monday that Sharon McNight will be the featured entertainer.

tured entertainer.
Dubbed "an underwear fashion show and extravaganza," Legal Briefs II will feature 25 model "teams" who will strut their stuff. Back this year will be marriage equality activist Molly McKay and her spouse, Davina Kotulski. Also on tap is Sister Bella the Ball, The 4 Gattos, Joe Caruso of the Office of Emergency Services, Mr. San Francisco Leather 2004 Julian Marshburn, and the men of Ti-tanMen. San Francisco's favorite community maven, Donna Sachet, will serve as mistress of cer-

Last year's inaugural show at-tracted 150 attendees and raised more than \$14,000 for ALRP, which saw its federal funding severely cut last year. ALRP provides legal services for people living with HIV/AIDS.

The show runs from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The suggested minimum donation is \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. For more information, visit www.alrp.org or call (415) 701-1200.

### Call for TG nominations

San Francisco Transgender Empowerment, Advocacy, and Mentorship is calling for nomina-tions for its second TG Pride Awards, to be held at the LGBT

Awards, to be held at the LGB1 Community Center June 20. SFTEAM organizers plan to present three awards, and nomi-nations in all categories are now being accepted. The categories are: trans individuals who have pro-vided leadership and demonstrat. vided leadership and demonstrat-ed excellence in areas such as raising awareness, educating others, advocacy work, or promoting equality; a trans ally (non-trans identified) who has met the same criteria; and one organization that has demonstrated excellence in the provision of direct services to the community, exhibited sensitivity and awareness of TG issues; has TG staff; and TG-specific pro-

For more information and to For finore information and to submit nominations, e-mail nom-inate@sfteam.org. Nominations may also be mailed to JoAnne Keatley, 1145 Bush Street, 2nd floor, San Francisco, CA 94109. The deadline is June 4. ▼

# **Gay pioneer Stephen** Kellogg dies at 87

by Cynthia Laird

ongtime gay activist Stephen Kellogg died April 23 in San Francisco. He was 87. No cause of death was re-

leased.
Mr. Kellogg was born to
George and Elsie Kellogg in El
Paso, Texas on April 20, 1918.
A fearless Bay Area gay rights
pioneer, Mr. Kellogg was president
of the Mattachine Society in the
early 1960s, opening his San Francisco home to fundraising events
(one of which was raided by the
police) and helping to organize police) and helping to organize discussion groups, counseling services, progressive multi-denominational religious support groups, and legal services to gays and les-bians in the adolescent days of the gay rights movement.

Throughout the 1960s, Mr. Kellogg helped coordinate civil rights efforts with lesbian activists Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin of the Daughters of Bilitis (and one of Daughters of Bilitis (and one of the sole surviving Sons of Bilitis, or as he put it with characteristic humor, "I'm one of the last S-O-B's."). In 1967, Mr. Kellogg was in-strumental in establishing the So-ciety for Individual Rights, which

took the movement to a new level of social and political activism. In the late 1970s, as HIV began to spread throughout the gay community, Mr. Kellogg worked



Gay pioneer Stephen Kellogg

with the Theosophical Society to establish healing and meditation groups to serve those affected by the disease. In 1996, Malcolm McCay, Mr.

Kellogg's partner of 35 years, suffered a series of devastating strokes. Mr. Kellogg devoted himself to McCay's care, eventually becoming a fulltime volunteer at the Laguna Honda hospice ward where McCay lived weights is death. where McCay lived until his death in 2003. The volunteers and staff of Laguna Honda honored Mr. Kellogg many times over the years, not just for his steadfast devotion to McCay, but for his advice, counsel, and his commitment to

John Harvey



On April 7th
John Harvey left us.
He leaves behind a
family of Sonny
Werhan, Gene
Tebbe, and Gretel
Von Hundt, all of
San Francisco. John
was a frequent visi-

Diamond Street and helped with the de-livery of meals through Project Open Hand. He was a finend and former lover of Harvey Milk when they both lived in Los Angeles. No memorial service is planned at this time. Cremation and the scattering of his ashes have taken place at sea. He will be missed by all those who loved him.

Mr. Kellogg continued to volunteer at Laguna Honda until last year, when his health began to deteriorate. He also remained active in the gay community, opening his modest apartment to weekly book study meetings of a gay Buddhist congregation.

A citizen of the world (he was particularly fond of remembering his years in Saudi Arabia in the 1150s), Mr. Kellogg was a theolo-gian, scholar, and prolific poet. He was a student and friend of dance legend Martha Graham, one of actor Montgomery Clift's lovers, and a trusted confidant of numerous kings, queens, and court jesters. He was also a source of profound wisdom, inexhaustible compassion, and sparkling wit, friends said. His sister Pat, his family, and friends will hold him securely in their hearts forever.

Donations in Mr. Kellogg's ame may be made to Laguna Honda Hospital Hospice C2, 375 Laguna Honda Boulevard, San Francisco, CA 94116. ▼

# **OBITUARY POLICY**

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow rules of capitalization – and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit. If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.



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### **Daddy Davolt**

tunity to write his own obituary.
"San Francisco writer, publisher and humorist Robert Wayne Davolt died ... after a brief battle with cancer in which, obviously, the cancer came out slightly ahead," he wrote.

ahead, 'ne wrote.
"Born in Renton, Washington,
on June 27, 1958, Davolt began
early, publishing a neighborhood
association newsletter at 15," he
continued. "While still in high continued. "While still in high school, he broke a major labor story in his school newspaper, winning grudging praise from the major daily papers that he had scooped. At 17, he joined the U.S. Navy, stationed on small ships pa-trolling the South Pacific and In-dian Oceans. Davolt continued writing in the service and the tray. writing in the service and the trav-el articles he sold about his various ports of call began a nearly 30-year freelance career."

Upon completion of his naval service, Mr. Davolt returned to the Seattle area, where he earned two degrees at Highline Community College, won several press awards, and briefly taught journalism. In 1983, he moved to Columbia, Missouri, where he completed a bachelor's degree in political sci-ence at the University of Missouri. After graduating he relocated to Madison, Wisconsin, where he worked in advertising for Cater-

Mr. Davolt's active involvement in the leather community began in the late 1970s. He was named Mr. Wisconsin named Mr. Wisconsin Levi/Leather Daddy in 1994 and was an International Mr. Leather contestant in 1995. The following year, he moved to San Francisco to manage "the infamous Drummer magazine," a major gay men's leather/SM publication that began

Mr. Davolt was editor and pubpage 23 ▶

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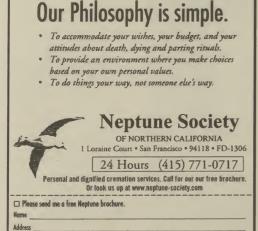
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# Silver service

by Jim Provenzano

he Gay and Lesbian Tennis Federation is celebrating its 25th anniversary in several

ways this month.
At the 25th annual United
States Gay Open, hundreds of tennis players from North America, Great Britain, and Australia will fill courts at Golden Gate Park, Francisco State University, and the San Francisco Tennis Club during Memorial Day weekend, May 27-30.

A special evening reception at the GLBT Historical Society May 19 will showcase not only the "Sporting Life" exhibit, but visit-"Sporting Life" exhibit, but visit-ing tennis players will be given tours of the archives. In addition, GLTF President Steven Brown is supervising and creating a series of specially made panels high-lighting the past 24 years of the GLBT tennis tournaments.

In addition, parties and a grand banquet at the Westin St. Francisco hotel ballroom will top the weekend's gathering of court-

ly players.

With so much history, it is imowinso intuit instory, it is im-possible to tell all these stories in an exhibit or column, but Ken-neth Najour is one of the many fascinating people who are part of our sports history.

our sports history.

A local founding member of the then-named Gay Tennis Federation, Najour has been a part of organizing local tournaments for over 20 years.

Les Balmain, who, Na-

jour said, is now in Texas in a convalescent home, started organized tennis matches with a dozen others in the late 1970s at the 15th Sports Complex Street tennis courts. Balmain also played a

pivotal role in the popular Great Tricycle Race benefits, and was a cofounder of the short-lived *Gay* magazine, published 1982-83 to promote the first Gay Games and the groups that grew



Kenneth Najour, GLTF's co-founder, pokes fun at his serve in this personal photo

"It took a long time for it to progress into a national event; it took years," said Najour, who re-

members tennis' early days with fondness

"I heard about it played at 15th Street, just pickup games," said Najour. "You went to the courts, and just

leveled off with some-body of your own skill."

Najour playing tennis in his 20s in San Jose, but

gave it up for several years. After moving to San Francisco, when he heard about out gay men playing tennis together, he said he was

"It definitely meant something

to me," he said. "I was amazed. I saw all these other gay men, having a good time, and being out, camping and carrying on."

camping and carrying on."
After playing in the beginners' category, in his first tournament, Najour said he became nick-named "Lobarina," because he was then afraid to do anything but lob. "But then I got into the swing of the thing, and enjoyed it very much." Najour, like Balmain, Bobby Docena, and many other say tennis movement founders.

Bobby Docena, and many other gay tennis movement founders, also helped organize the first Gay Games tennis events held in 1982. Always a doubles player, Na-jour, now 82, gave up tennis about seven years ago, but will be attend-ing next weekend's celebrations

ing next weekend's celebrations and watching some matches. Najour recalls winning a few tournaments through the 1980s, and bringing his trophies to his mother in his native San Jose. Although she was proud, as was Najour, he didn't specifically tell his mother that his victories were won at gay tournaments, but won at gay tournaments, but added, "She sure knew what was

added, "She sure knew what was going on."
Given a Cable Car Award for Outstanding Male Tennis Athlete in 1989, Najour recalled meeting new members every year.
As for the name change from GTF to GLTE, Najour said, "At that time we considered "gay" to be inclusive. We then slipped in the 'L' in 1994."
Along with the festivity there

Along with the festivity there were some controversies. Najour mentioned transvestite (not transmentioned transvestite (not trans-sexual) players who wanted to play in the women's category, "but the lesbians wouldn't allow them to play as women, because it wasn't fair." Even some problems occurred on local courts over the years, Na-jour recalled. When some straight

players refused to leave courts after their time was up, a large group of gay players had to assert themselves.

themselves.

And when an early tennis banquet was held for the first time at Marines Memorial Hall, Najour recalled the staff trying to deny the players the right to rent the hall, "but they didn't back down."

The night of the event, Najour said, the lobby board made no use of the word "gay." 'It just read 'San Francisco Tennis Group."

Francisco Tennis Group

next page



### **Daddy Davolt**

**◄** page **21** 

lisher of *Drummer* magazine, ex-ecutive producer of the annual In-ternational Drummer contests, and chairman and CEO of the magazine's publishing company, Desmodus Inc. He invited the first transgender leatherman to sit on a judging panel for an interna-tional men's leather contest. Mr. Davolt held these positions until 1999, when the Drummer name was sold to a new owner in Europe; the magazine folded soon thereafter, and the Mr. Drummer and Drummerboy titles were later replaced by International Leather-

Sir and Leatherboy.

Mr. Davolt then returned to freelance writing, editing, and design. His work appeared in a wide variety of publications including the Bay Area Reporter, OutNow, the San Francisco Examiner, San Francisco Frontiers, and Spectrum (under the pen name J.P. Rathtunder the pen name J.P. Kath-burne, in honor of his first fleet assignment aboard the U.S.S. Rathburne). He also wrote for Blueboy, Bound & Gagged, and the Leather Journal, and for the past four years he authored a regular online. online column for LeatherPage.com. Mr. Davolt's first book, *Painfully Obvious: An* Irreverent and Unauthorized Man-ual for Leather/SM (2004), was nominated for the American Library Association's Stonewall Book Award.

"I hope I make people think and give them a chuckle at the same time so the process is not too painful," he once told an inter-viewer about his goal as a writer. Mr. Davolt had an impressive resume of positions in the leather

community, including San Francisco Leather Daddy XIX, coordi nator of the leather contingent in the San Francisco Pride Parade, and member of the board of di-rectors of the Leather Archives and Museum in Chicago. He trav-eled widely as a teacher, lecturer, radio commentator, fundraiser, and leather contest judge.
"I love the leather community

and if I have taught anything – if I leave you with anything – DO NOT accept second rate for yourselves. Always question; always challenge; always ask "why." Do what you want, but do your very best and do it to the very best standards you can establish," he advised in his LeatherPage.com column.

Mr. Davolt is survived by his lov-

ing partner of seven years, Joe Granese of San Francisco; his parents Mildred and Jesse Davolt of Seattle; and two brothers and a sister.

and two brothers and a sister.
Mr. Davolt concluded his obituary: "A private scattering will return the sailor to the sea on a date
this summer to be announced, and
after, a celebration of his life and
sense of absurdity will be held at
Daddy's bar at 440 Castro Street. In lieu of flowers, please remember the Leather Archives and Mu seum and tip your bartenders." ▼

### LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE A-0284845-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Lucid Gallery, SSO Sutter St. San Francisco, Ca. 94(2). This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Clint Worden. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NJA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 4(25)(05. APRIL 28, MAY 5, 12, 19 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0284788-00 The following person(s) are doing business as: Weird Fish, 2193 Mission St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Peter Hood. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 4/22/05. ty of San Francisco, Ca. on 4/22/05. APRIL 28, MAY 5, 12, 19 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0284711-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Sterling Ventures, 1388 Haight St. #95 San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Sterling B. Scott II. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 4/20/05. of San Francisco, Ca. on 4/20/05. APRIL 28, MAY 5, 12, 19 2005

**STATEMENT FILE A-02848766-00** The following person(s) are doing business as Belgano Chocoladier & Gelateria, 3901 24th St. San Francisco, Ca. 9411.4. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Randall Jensen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco. Ca. on 4/2/1065 of San Francisco, Ca. on 4/21/05. APRIL 28, MAY 5, 12, 19 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0284528-00 The following person(s) are doing business as: John Griffin Photography, 1072 Folsom St. #400 San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual, signed John Griffin. The registrants/s commenced to transact business under the above listed ficti-tious business name or names on 4/13/05. The statement was filled with the City and Countries Co. 100.

APRIL 28, MAY 5, 12, 19 2005

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 05541994

In the matter of the application of Dennis Robert Badagliacco for change of name. The application of Dennis Robert Badagliacoco for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Dennis Robert Badagliacco has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Dennis Robert Jefferson. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 21st day of June, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. for change of name should not be granted.
APRIL 28 MAY 5, 12, 19 2005

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRAN-CISCO FILE # CNC 05541981

CISCO FILE # CNC 05541981
In the matter of the application of Melissa Marie Maggiolo-Smida for change of name. The application of Melissa Marie Maggiolo-Smida for change of name having been filled in Court, and it appearing from said application that Melissa Marie Maggiolo-Smida has filed an application proposing that his/ther name be changed to Alessandra Mel Vitale. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 28th day of June, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. APRIL 28 MAY 5. 12. 19 2005

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRAN-CISCO FILE # CNC 05541995

CISCO FILE # CNC 05541995
In the matter of the application of Jonathan Timothy Bobts-McKay for change of name. The application of Jonathan Timothy Bobts-McKay for change of name having been filled in Court, and it appearing from said application that Jonathan Timothy Bobts-McKay has filled an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Jonathan Timothy Bobts. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 21st day of June, 2005 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. name should not be granted.

APRIL 28 MAY 5, 12, 19 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0284941-00 STATEMENT FILE A-U284941-00
The following person(s) are doing business as:
B + L Interiors, LLC, 478 10th Ave. San
Francisco, Ca. 94118. This business is conducted by a limited liability company, signed
Cray Bauxmont Flynn. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above
listed fictitious business name or names on
NA. The statement was filed with the City
and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 4/28/05.
MAY 5. 12, 19, 26, 2010. MAY 5, 12, 19, 26 2005

### CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

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(415) 554-8930 to obtain a free poster of "Toxic Treats"

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR AS-NEEDED ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING SERVICES

SERVICES
Solicitation 05-620-RFQ-017
The San Francisco Housing Authority is soliciting Statements of Qualifications from professional firms to provide as-needed Electrical Engineering Services for a two-year period with a total contract amount not-to-exceed \$200,000.

Responses are due by 2:00 P.M. on Tuesday, June 14, 2005. The RFQ document is available at the Authority's office at 1815 Egbert Ave., San Francisco. Contact Carolina Penate. 415-715-3171, e-mail penate.@\$fha.org, or download http://www.ci.sf.ca.us/sfha/prcrmnt/current.htm.

VACANCY NOTICE

VALANICY NOTHCE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 54974, California Government Code, notice is hereby given of the following unscheduled vacancies. Interested persons may obtain an application from the Board of Supervisors web site at www.slgov.org/site/uploadedfiles/bdsupvrs/Vacancy\_Notices/vacancy\_app.pdf or from the Clerk of the Rules Committee, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102-4689. Completed applications should be submitted to the Clerk of the Board. All applicants must be residents of San Francisco, unless otherwise stated. Additional information may be obtained by accessing the City's web site: www.slgov.org/bdsupvrs.

Please Note: Depending upon the posting date, some vacancies may have already been filled To determine if vacancies for this Board/Committee/Commission or Task Force are still available please call the Rules Committee Clerk at 554-5184.

ASTHMA TASK FORCE

Seat 1, must be a representative of a community-based organization that provides advocacy re lated to asthma issues in San Francisco and is a voting member.

Seat 12, must be a representative of MediCal Managed Care Insurers and is a voting member for the unexpired portion of a two-year term ending June 30, 2005.

Seat 13, resigned, must be a representative of lung health/asthm unexpired portion of a two-year term ending June 30, 2005.

Seat 14, resigned, must be a representative of lung health/asthma-specific organizations and is a voting member, for the unexpired portion of a two-year term ending June 30, 2005.

Seat 21, must be an individual who represents property interests (non-voting member), for the unexpired portion of a two-year term ending June 30, 2005.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Please complete a meeting information/public noticing survey online at http://www.sfgov.org/site/bdsupvrs or call (415) 554-5184 for a survey form.

### **Sport Complex**

previous page

Since those early days thou sands of tennis players have bene fited from the organization, skill, and spirit the GLTF lent to the first two Gay Games, and other tournaments around the world. For someone like Kenneth Najour, it's a good time to reflect on decades of accomplishments.

"We now have 420 members, and just think, it started with 12

more www.gltf.org/usgo.html

### Talking 'Jock'

The GLBT Historical Society and Museum proudly announces "Jock Talk," a series of scholars, athletes, activists, and community athletes, activists, and community leaders discussing past and present GLBT sports and their relationship to social movements, culture, politics, and community building. Jock Talk accompanies the new Main Gallery exhibit, "Sporting Life: GLBT Athletics and Cultural Change from the 1960s to Today."

1960s to Today." University of California, Davis University of California, Davis historian Julia Kehew presents "The Name of the Games: The Women's Olympics and the Gay Olympic Games," discussing controversies in the 1920s and the 1980s over the word "Olympic." Saturday, May 21, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

The waynt is free and onen to

The event is free and open to the public. The historical society is located at 657 Mission Street, Suite 300. For more info call (415) 777-5455 or visit www.glbthistory.org.

### It's which Kraft

And now a word from the American Family Association: "Kraft Foods, makers of popular products like Macaroni and Cheese, Kraft Singles, Oreo cookies, Maxwell House coffee, and Ritz crackers, is a sponsor of the 2006 Gay Olympic Games in Chicago.

"The Gay Games in Ciricago.
"The Gay Games are supported and endorsed by dozens of homosexual activist groups and organizations, including homosexual magazines and television outlets."

Well, thanks to the zany Reverend Donald Wildmon, cheese coated Oreos never sounded good. But you better watch it with that "O" word. You never know who might sue.

who might sue.

The big stink? The closeted hoohahs at the fundie group just now discovered that a major food-type product corporation is daring to sponsor a local athletic event.

"Kraft is important to the control of the control

"Kraft is ignoring e-mails," Wildmon fumed in his missive to Wildmon fumed in his missive to his rabid legions (gee, we wonder why). "Please make a personal phone call to Kraft and tell them to pull their financial support from the 2006 Gay Games."

Team San Francisco, Gay Games VII organizers, and GLBT activists are in return calling for counter calls, e-mails, and letters to support Kraft

counter calls, e-mails, and letters to support Kraft.

"The executive committee of the Federation of Gay Games unanimously applauds Kraft Foods (as well as the other 70 or so sponsors of the Gay Games) and the hearty-end the hearty endorsement of the city of Chicago for their unstinting of Chicago for their unstinting support of the return of the Gay Games to the United States in 2006," said Roger Brigham, FGG communications director.

Of course, a complicating factor is that Kraft is owned by Altria, which is actually Philip Morris, the company of the Chicago of the Course of

the company that makes Marl-boro and other cigarettes that

have been proven to cause cancer. Philip Morris, besides marketing in a variety of ways to gays, teenagers and African Americans in order to ensure a future market, is targeting women and children in Asia and other places around the world. Philip Morris has an active philanthropic program in which they try to counter negative attitudes about tobacco, like, uh,

attitudes about tobacco, like, uh, that little cancer thing.

To voice your opinion, as conflicted as it may be, call 1-800-323-0768, or write Kraft Foods, CEO Roger K. Deromedi, 3 Lakes Drive, Northfield, IL 60093.

For more info about the seventh Gay Games, visit www.GayGamesChicago.org.

### PUBLIC NOTICE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

San Francisco Community College District is accepting proposals for a food and coffee bar on the third floor of the temporary Mission Campus, located at 375 Alabama Street, San Francisco. An open house to view the space will be held on Wednesday, June 1, 2005 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.. Bids are due no later than Monday, June 27, 2005

To sign up for the open house and to receive a proposal packet, please contact the Chief Administrative Services Office, Stephen J. Herman at (415) 241-2327 or his secretary Ms. Yolanda Panem at (415) 487-2417.

STATEMENT FILE A-0285008-00 The following person(s) are doing business as: Fruitful Grounds, 1813 Fulton St. San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by co-partners, signed Jorge Cortes. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on May 10, 1995. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 502.05.

MAY 5, 12, 19, 26 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0284956-00 STATEMENT IF ILE A-UZ84956-UU
The following person(s) are doing business as: Tableworks, 2588 Mission St. San
Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Jamie
Owens. The registrant(s) commenced to iteransact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 11/29/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 429/05. 4/29/05. MAY 5, 12, 19, 26 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0284918-00 The following person(s) are doing business as: CAL-AM Construction Company, 2427 37th Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed David Chang. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 4272705.

MAY 5, 12, 19, 26 2005

STATEMENT PILE Property of the Month of the STATEMENT FILE A-0284865-00 of San Francisco, Ca. on 4/26/0 MAY 5, 12, 19, 26 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0284602-00 STATEMENT FILE A-UZ84002-UU
The following person(s) are doing business as: TrainerMartin, 160 Caselli Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Martin Spector. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed ficitious business name or names on 4/15/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 4/15/05. MAY 5, 12, 19, 26 2005

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
To whom it may concern: The name of the applicants is far California Culinary Academy, Inc. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at 71 Stevenson Street, Suite #1500 San Francisco, Ca. 94105, to sell alcoholic beverages at 350 Rhode Is-land St. San Francisco, Ca. 94103. Type of License applied for: of License applied for: 47 - ON-SALE GENERAL EATING PLACE MAY 5, 12, 19 2005

# BAY A REA REPORTER ASSIFIF

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Web Page: AlanEmery.com

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HOME FOR ME (AND CAT) Is There Anyone Out There Who Would Like To Help Out A 60 yo Re-tired Gentleman With His Own Gentle Cat? I Have A Very Good Monthly Income. I Preferably Would Like TO Rent My Own Studio Apt. But Would Consider A Roommate Situation With My Own Bedroom. I'm HIV+ And I Do Not Indulge In Hard Drugs. If Anyone Knows Someone Who Can Help Me In My Situation Please Feel Free To Call Stephen (That's Me) At (415) 586-8282. Serious Calls Only

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M Share Serene Sunny Apt. Near GGPark \$495 Lee 750-9705

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WWW.RIVERHOMES.COM

### **LEGAL NOTICES**

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 05542001 In the matter of the application of Win Thaw 00 for change of name. The application of Win Thaw 00 for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application or proposing that his/her name be changed to Ryan Chan. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the filed and put of the course of the said of the course of t change of name should not be granted. MAY 5, 12, 19, 26 20005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285178-00 STATEMENT FILE A-0285178-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Lassen Tours, 391 Sutter St. Ste. 504, San Francisco, Ca. 34108. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Judy Swen. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 5/6/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/6/05.
MAY 12, 19, 26 JUNE 2 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285004-00 The following person(s) are doing business as: Art & Soul Gallery, 1844 Divisadero St. San Francisco, Ca. 94115. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Chesney Rheaume. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 4/28/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/2/05. MAY 12, 19, 26 JUNE 2 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285102-00 STATEMENT FILE A-0285102-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: Seal Rock Realty, 1775-35th Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Nick Kaskanlian. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business mame or names on 5/3/05. The statement was filled with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/4/05.

MAY 12, 19, 26 JUNE 2 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285198-00 The following person(s) are doing business as istudio, 89 France Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Long Wu. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/10/5. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5005. 59/05. MAY 12, 19, 26 JUNE 2 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285165-00 STATEMENT FILE A-0285165-00 The following person(s) are doing business as: Bureau, 2019 Hyde St. San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Lawrence Li. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business name or names on 4/26/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 56/05. MAY 19, 26 JUNE 2, 9 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0284986-00 STATEMENT FILE A-0224986-00 The following person(s) are doing business as: Afu Home Care Agency, 1100 Felton St. San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Esther Lowman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 10/23/02. The statement was filled with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 4/23/05. MAY 19. 26 JUNE 2. 9 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285237-00 TATEMENT FILE A-U283227-UU
The following person(s) are doing business
as: Maid Organic, 17 Bob Kaufman Aly.
San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business
is conducted by an individual, signed J.
Gerrit Veneman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the
above listed fictitious business name or
names on 5/10/05. The statement was filed
with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca.
on 5/10/05. on 5/10/05. MAY 19, 26 JUNE 2, 9 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285383-00 STATEMENT HILL A-UZ85383-UV
The following person(s) are doing business as: Eikon Design Group, 20 Cerritos San Francisco, Ca. 94127. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Gene G. Relampagos. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. 65/16/16

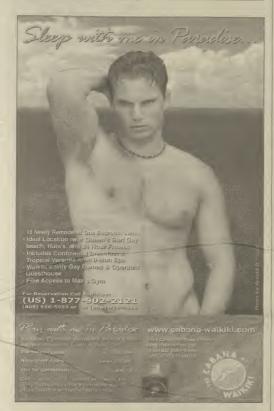
on 5/16/05. MAY 19, 26 JUNE 2, 9 2005

STATEMENT FILE A-0285384-00 STATEMENT FILE A-U283384-00
The following person(s) are doing business as: 1.) Walker 2.) Walker Bags, 81 Dorman Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Eveline Parker. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 5/16/05. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 5/16/05. co, Ca. on 5/16/05. MAY 19, 26 JUNE 2, 9 2005

### **VACATION RENTALS**



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The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictibious business name known as Afu Home Care Agency located at 14 University \$1. San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business was conducted by a general partnership signed Either Lowman. The fictibious name was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10/23/02. MAY 19, 26 JUNE 2, 9 2005

MAY 19, 26 JUNE 2, 9 2005

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 05542055

In the matter of the application of Wei Chong for change of name. The application of Wei Chong for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Wei Chong has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Wei Zhuang. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Room 218 on the 7th day of July, 2005 at 9:70 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.

MAY 19, 26, JUNE 2, 9 2005

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRAN-CISCO FILE # CNC 05542072

CISCO FILE # CNC 05542072
In the matter of the application of Adam
Lee Cronin for change of name. The application of Adam Lee Cronin for change of name
having been filed in Court, and it appearing
from said application that Adam Lee Cronin
has filed an application proposing that
his/her name be changed to Alessandro
DeNino. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered,
that all persons interested in said matter do
appear before this Court in Room 218 on
the 14th day of July, 2005 at 990 am of
said day to show cause why the application
for change of amme should not be granted. for change of name should not be granted. MAY 19, 26, JUNE 2, 9 2005

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
To whom it may concern: The name of the
applicants is/are Residence Inn By Marriott Inc. The applicants listed above are
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Beverage Control at 71 Sevenson Street,
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sell alcoholic beverages at: 1350 Veterans
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NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
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71 Stevenson Street, Suite # 1500 San
Francisco, Ca. 94105, to sell alcoholic
beverages at: 245 S. Airport Blvd. South
San Francisco, Ca. 94000. Type of License

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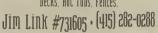
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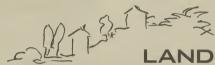


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Fine 'Folk' finale Showtime's 'Queer as Folk's final season begins. page 34



Fight for the right 'Prom Queen' takes his boyfriend to the dance.



# BAYAREA REPORTER ARTS& ENTERTAINME

Vol. 35 • No. 20 • 19 May 2005

# Dancer from the dan



by Richard Dodds

horeographer Sergio Trujillo says he's "a research kind of guy." When he worked on the guy. Wielling worked off memusical version of Peggy Sue
Got Married in London, he
watched tapes of Hullabaloo and
American Bandstand to learn about dances he was too young to know first-hand. When he staged the musical numbers for a Canadian produc-tion of *The Sound of Music*, he took lessons in Austrian folk-dancing. And there were hours of Elvis-watching for the current Broadway attraction All

the current Broadway attraction All Shook Up.
But with The Mambo Kings, he said, "This one is in my blood. This one was close to home."
Trujillo, 40, was a dancer in the 1992 movie based on Oscar Hijuelas'

novel, and now he is choreographing the Broadway-bound musical adapta-

the Broadway-bound musical adaptation soon to make its world premiere at the Golden Gate Theatre.

"This is my first huge Latin thing," said the Colombian-born choreographer. "I've been choreographing all these, I hate to say it, period Caucasian musicals." (And as soon as The Mambo Kings opens in New York, Trujillo gets to work on the Broadway-bound Jersey Boys, a musical biography of '60s pop stars Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons.)

There was still research to be done

There was still research to be done for *The Mambo Kings*, specifically into the Cuban culture, both in Havana

page 35

# Still in bed with Fairy Butch

Ten years and running of the lesbian/trans cabaret by Malinda Lo

alking into the club "In Bed with Fairy Butch" is a little like walking into a well-organized lesbian meat market. You get your dildo raffle ticket on the left, and if you're single you get your numbered sticker on the right. But "In Bed with Fairy Butch" is more than a place to hook up it's been serving San Francisco's lesbian and trans community for 10 years with its lusty cabaret show, campy dating games, and oodles of fliration. Hosted by Pairy Butch, the alter-ego

of flirtation. Hosted by Fairy Butch, the alter-ego of sex columnist and author Karlyn Lotney, the show has been a fixture of the local lesbian scene since 1995; on May 21, it will celebrate its 10th birthday, becoming one of the longest-running lesbian cabarets in the country.

"In Bed with Fairy Butch" began as a series of fundraisers for the struggling lesbian sex magazine On Our Backs, but it soon packed the tiny CoCo Club with its unique mix of queer strippers, comedy, and drag. "I did drag from the beginning," Lotney recalls, taking on the role of

high femme Shirley U. Gest. "I would wear my lingerie underneath my tuxedo, and I would say, 'Some people don't know that I have this secret,' and I would undress, and I would be Shirley underneath. I would put on the makeup, the whole thing onstage.

thing onstage."
Over the past decade, "In Bed" has evolved from a variety show that regularly featured comedians and singers, to a focus on sex-positive frivolity through queer strippers, sex tips, and dating games. Even Shirley has evolved since her early days on stage. "I used to do more esoteric things," Lotney explains, "but I find that Shirley, you know, she doesn't know that she can't rely on her beauty like some other women can. She likes to do the popular songs and stripping to get attention."

attention."

The early shows also featured co-host Molly McKay, now Executive Director of Marriage Equality California. "A lot of people don't know she's also very funny and she's an amazing singer," Lotney says. But after two years, McKay moved on to other work, and Lotney eventually decided to host the show on her own, although she still invites guests to come onstage with her to answer sex questions from the audience.

During the show's six-year tenure at the CoCo Club, Lotney produced two shows a month, one for women and one with a co-ed audience. "We never had to advertise," she remem-

We never had to advertise," she remem bers. But because the CoCo Club was so small



# We've got a new attitude

Fleur de leaks and other upcoming treats

### by Roberto Friedman

ver since the 20th-century artist Marcel Duchamp brought a urinal into the gallery and called it ready-made art, the eternal Men's Room fix-ture has waited for its next great blossoming upon the fine-art

San Francisco artist Clark San Francisco artist Ulark Sorensen crafts large-scale flow-ers of high-fire porcelain and at-taches them to conventional plumbing fixtures, to create the most holy peeing receptacles you've ever seen. Considering that flowers are, in a certain way, truly the sexual organs of plants, these porcelains are most sensual and seductive. You might say they're piss-elegant. Plus we're assured that each piece can be plumbed and used for its intended purpose. In fact, Sorensen has a calla lily urinal ready for use in a corner of

Nature's Call — Flower-Shaped Urinals and other Nature-Inspired Sculptures opens with a reception on Friday night, May 20, and remains on view through June 13, at Ruby's Clay Studio & Gallery, 552 Ruby's ClayStudio & Gallery, 552 A Noe St., SF. Gallery p.r. calls Sorensen's works "functional bathroom fixtures/whimsical sculpture," but we call them pure, bloomin' genius. Paging profes-sional aesthete Philippe Starck: We've found the ultimate Men's Room furniture for your newest hotel design concept.

### Welcome return

Next topic. Fans of the late lamented '90s NYC queer 'zine My Comrade will be as ex-cited as Out There to see the newly reincar-nated version ("Born Again! \$5") available for purchase at discriminating news-stands. Editor **Out There** Linda Simpson'

return, but even as a one-off it's provided hours — well, OK, min-



"Yellow Orchid" by Clark Sorensen, 22" tall without hardware.

s — of pleasure. Comrade has its moments of topical humor, like the answer to a roving re-porter's man-on-theporter's man-on-the-street question, "What do you like best about living in the NYU dorms?" "NYU's corrupt treat-ment of the neighbor-hood makes clear the moral superiority of Islam. Praise Allah!"

Allah!" Comrade

has the now-obligatory **Scissor Sisters** spread, but because the photo-shoot was done in sexy lead

singer Jake Shears' very own apartment, you see pics of him you just won't see in other maga-zines, like Jake keeping current on his BlackBerry whilst sitting on the floor in his underpants.

But most importantly, Com-

rade's abundant male eye-candy offers inner life as well as outer beauty. Centerfold **Damion** admits, "I get complimented on my mits, "I get compimented on my eyes and my lips, and since I've put on some weight, my ass. But I'm not the usual type, so I usually just get hired for specific parties, because people know I'll take off my clothes. I used to be classified as chicken. Now I'm just sleazy." Out There knows just

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what you mean, Damion started at the top, and we worked our way down

Dates hooked

So sorry, the opening night of Watch Me Shine was incorrectly reported in these pages last week. The correct dates of its run are June 15-18 at 8 p.m., une 22-23 at 8 p.m., and June 24-25 at 7 & 9 p.m. Color us contrite.

Here's a date we'll get right the first time: The Return of Fudgie Fridays happens this Friday, May 20, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., with a show at



Fudgie Frottage returns to Transfer

Midnight. That's MC Fudgie Frottage offering a vivacious va-riety show at his favorite dive bar, The Transfer, where the drinks and bartenders are cheap and strong. The show stars local night-club royalty Pippi Lovestocking. Birdie-Bob Watt, U.B. Mackin, Lily LeRouge, DJ Chelsea Starr (Hotpants), and others. Win a spin on the "Wheel of Fudge" (scary) for free drinks! The Transfer is at 198 Church and

Market. Cover: \$3-\$5 suggested donation, benefit for PAWS. Francisco date is the

White Ball, the nation's biggest black-tie fundraiser, just around the corner on June 11. Now comes news that

San Francisco Symphony has added to the ros ter that consummate Queen of Rhythm & Blues, Patti LaBelle, known far and wide for her "New Attitude." Tickets for the *Black &* Attitude: Tickets for the *Black & White Ball* are \$200 general admission; group sales of 10 or more are \$150. Call the Symphony Box Office at (415) 864-6000 or visit

### Pecking order

Apropos of the DVD review of The Turning Point which you'll find a few pages back in this week's A & Esection, here's the in-side dish. Seems immortal glamour icon Audrey Hepburn was the first choice for the Anne Ban-croft part, but she withdrew when Princess Grace declined the **Shirley MacLaine** part. Nothing ever succeeded in tempting her Serene Highness Grace Kelly to go before the cameras again. Not even the promise of

### Long island story

It all began innocently enough, one sultry SF evening when Out There popped into a press party thrown by visiting players from the Maui Travelers Bureau, held in a nice suite of rooms at the Pan-Pacific Hotel downtown. After 25 years of living in the Gay Area, OT has never ever been to Hawaii, and we've always thought that state of affairs a darned shame.

The good folks from Maui had brought a veritable feast with them, plus their own chef, and au-thentic décor and island ambience. What's more, they brought music, and proceeded to dance authentic hula dances. We were eating tropical fruit, firting with

eating tropical truit, flirting with islanders, having a high old time. The party was packed full of travel writers from Conde Nast publications and city magazines, many of them old hands at traveling the South Pacific. Call them Bali Ha'i-os. We were chatting with a present and the south Pacific was the south Pacific. with a press agent who was tanta-lizing us with talk of putting together an Asian trip when the crowd was shushed because the lucky winner of the grand prize was going to be announced. Everyone had tossed their business cards into a glass fishbowl upon arrival, and now our host ched down deep into the bowl and drew out ours

Your gay uncle Out There was more than a little bit plucked, as more than a little bit plucked, as no one in our family has ever won anything, least of all a week for two in Maui with luxury hotels, cars, boats and aeroplanes all paid up. For the rest of the party, magazine writers kept coming up to us and declaring, "I hate you!" In jest. Sort



NE NE



# Blonde is as blonde does

Robert Redford and Barbra Streisand in 'The Way We Were' at the Castro

by David Lamble

n *The Way We Were*, Hubbell is perched, drunkenly asleep, on a barstool in the middle of a private party for soldiers and sailors during WWII. Hubbell is Robert Redford, his own very bland a beginning to the sail of the s blonde planet, in a very close orbit to a very strange planet, Katie, the sometimes strident, sometimes achingly vulnerable left-wing agitator (a very archaic term that eems to fit here) played by Barbra

Streisand.

Redford was on a hot streak in 1973, and his pal, director Sydney Pollack, had to do a lot of pleading to get Redford to agree to be a big, blonde, goy boy-toy in a movie that obviously belonged to Straigs of movie that obviously belonged to Streisand's character. Hubbell and Katie have a most improbable ro-mantic fling that stretches from the Spanish Civil War to the Mc-Carthy witchhunt days of the mid-'50s. We never for a moment believe these two are right for each other. In a telling scene, Redford cuts in on Streisand, partnered with a very callow-looking James Woods (it was Woods' first screen role) at a student dance, flaunts his ability to steal the girl from his ability to steal the girl from Woods — who looks as if he has either a bad case of indigestion or possibly sees an entire bleak romantic-movie future laid out in front of him — and then walks out of her life for seven years.

Time passes very oddly in this movie. On the DVD, director Pollakt takes are as I all either the passes that the passes are as I all either the passes that the passes are as I all either the passes that the passes are as I all either the passes are passed to the passed to the passes are passed to the passed to the passes are passed to the passes are passed to the passed to t

lack takes a great deal of time ex-plaining the unusual flashback structure that kicks off the film and leads to Hubbell's precarious perch on that barstool. This, in turn, leads to a very improbable first night of sex between Hubbell and Katie — improbable, that is,



Big blonde, goy boy-toy: available?

unless you're a gay screenwriter, like Arthur Laurents, recalling a heavenly night with a never-to-beseen-again hunk

### **Unkindest cuts**

In the film, Hubbell screws Katie without realizing it's Katie. Behind the scenes, it was Laurents and Streisand who got screwed, and Streisand who got screwed, with script revisions and scene cuts made to boost Redford's character and to gut the film's original portrayal of the Hollywood blacklist. Three decades later, Laurents and Streisand are still pissed, and Pollock devotes most of his director's commentary to explaining and apologizing for the excisions. Is Pollock really sorry? Well, as Scooby says at the end of Storytelling, "The film's a hit." Pollock explains that an early San Francisco preview audience had been with the picture until a point in the third act, when the political story threatened to upstage the final Hubbell/Katie split. stage the final Hubbell/Katie split.

With that guy-in-charge smile of his, Pollack explains how the cuts were made crudely with scissors, and that the next night's audience swooned with delight, never miss-ing the complex depiction of loy-alty and betrayal that was cut, along with huge chunks of perfor-mances by Murray Hamilton and



The Way We Were marked the The Way We Were marked the only time Redford and Streisand got in a lovers' clinch, the beginning of Redford's phase as a bigscreen lover. Pauline Kael characteristically saluted his new role, "It's good to see Redford with a woman again after all that flirting with Paul Newman!" This was also the beginning of Streisand's phase of assuming behind-the-camera control of her screen projects — oh, my man, indeed!

In a new print struck for the occasion, *The Way We Were* will charm on the Castro Theatre's big screen, May 21-23. ▼

# Friday, May 20 - 7:30 PM Kathryn Shevelow, Specialist in 18th Century literature and culture and it is necessary to the construction of the cross-dressing Charlotte Charke in Charlotte. Being a True Account of an Actress's Flamboyant Adventures in Eighteenth-Century London's Wild and Wicked Theatrical World. who and wicked freatrical world. Thursday, June 2 - 7:30 PM Written by gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people and th who care about them, 50 Ways to Support Lesbian and Gay Equality is a informative, joyful, and poignant essays by well-known experts, activ



### **Out There**

previous page

of. We went home with a golden

of. We went home with a golden pineapple, a kona-nut necklace, and armfuls of press kits.

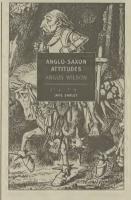
So that's where we're off to, a prize truly worthy of puzzlement. Just like the winners on game shows, we'll have to pay tax on the trip's value, while we don't pay tax or press trip. The toxing have on press trips. The tourism bu-reau doesn't necessarily expect us

reau doesn't necessarily expect us to write about our travels, except of course they do. Is that an existential conundrum, or what? We'll let our accountant figure it out.

"It was rigged!" claims our supportive friend J. No, sometimes life is just like that, and the same Fates that blow tropical breezes our way have also, on occasion shat casion, shat.

### **Packing light**

As usual, our knapsack is underpacked with clothes, over-packed with books. We're taking along the new paperback edition of **Angus Wilson**'s 1956 novel Anglo-Saxon Attitudes (NYRB,



ntemporary novelist Jane Smiley. Wilson's first novel in Hemlock and After, was one of the first in English to depict homosexual relationships and the gay streetlife of London. His canvas in Attitudes is as broad as British society, but the cast includes some recognizably gay characters.
"Vin stared at Frank like a

young ruminating cow, then he held out the box of chocolates.

'Have one,' he said. 'They're marvelous.' His pronunciation of the word was like a mixture of a small boy's and a Kensington hostes's. 'You know why I'm just a waiter as well as I do. Because I don't want to get mixed up with the police again. If I liked to troll the 'Dilly like Larrie, I could live as grand as Madame de Pompadour, or pretty near.' He got up lazily and stretched his arms. 'I don't know what's the good of being good,' he said in a Shirley Temple simper.'

Wilson toiled in the British Museum Reading Room before his literary career took off, so it's somehow perfect that it's a cadre of scheming scholars who set the plot in motion. At the center of the novel's back story is an obscene idol, a Priapic pater, found in the coffin of a seventh-century bishop during an archeological dig — actually an elaborate, successful hoax, about to be exposed by a Professor Emeritus. All Attitudes (the title is a pun lifted

cessin hoas, about to be exposed by a Professor Emeritus. All Atti-tudes (the title is a pun lifted from Through the Looking-Glass) are examined in this darkly glorious satire. We'll eat it right up, along with the *poi*. Aloha for now.





# Fri, May 27, 8 pm Zellerbach Hall \$32, \$46, \$68

"She packs more emotion into one word than most singers find in a lifetime." — Newsweek

The New York Times has compared her to a young Barbra Streisand and USA Today likened her to a young Judy Garland. Four-time Tony Award winner Audra McDonald delights audiences with her electrifying lyric soprano voice, charismatic stage presence, and dazzling range stretching from low and bluesy to richly operatic. She performs selections from her repertoire of musicals old and new, and original songs by up-and-coming composers

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San Francisco Chronicle Grand Robe

# Wishing upon a sitar

### Legendary master Ravi Shankar plays War Memorial Opera House

by Philip Campbell

ast meets West everyday in cosmopolitan San Francisco. Over in "Culture Alley" last week on the Rue de Van Ness, two fine examples of the best of both musical worlds delighted locals who savor the taste of diversity

Legendary sitar master Ravi Shankar — sage, womanizer, virtual founder of the World Music industry and teacher of the Beatles — appeared before a sold-out War Memorial Opera House for the SFJazz Festival audience last Thursday. He got a standing ovation before he started, and this was one time I could happily rise with respect and emotional gratitude.

The raga is the classical music of India, and Shankar has been a leader in bringing it to the West. The melismatic opening strains of any characteristic piece are, by now, instantly recognizable to our ears. What follows is essentially a predetermined rhythmic pattern overlaid by improvisation.

Not unlike modern jazz, actually, and the reason why Shankar's place on the program for SFJazz Fest's spring roster didn't appear incongruous. Even the great John Coltrane named his son Ravil This visit (and I sincerely hope it wasn't a farewell tour), Shankar at 85 appeared with his own child, daughter Anoushka. She has taken the mantle of master from her father with grace and astonishing ability. If papa can't make runs or individual notes as quickly as before, she takes up the slack with admirable discretion and subtlety.

admirable discretion and subtlety.

The opening late-night raga was slow and sensual, building with an almost erotic intensity to a concluding section that was filled with sensuous mystery and potable; interpretation.

micu with sensous mysetry and nostalgic introspection.
Speaking with a wavering voice, but still playing in a youthfully erect lotus position, Shankar introduced the pieces with the briefest outline of what structure would be employed. The quick flights of ecstasy and deep meditation were the artist's own invention.

After an evening with the venerable Shankar and company, especially within the hallowed walls of the Opera House, an enlightened crowd of fans and converts left for home feeling elevated and revitalized; as Cole Porter said in High Society, "Now, that's jazz."



The following night, just across Grove Street at Davies Hall, the San Francisco Symphony and re-

Shankar, founder of World Music

turning guest conductor David Robertson were putting on a concert that couldn't have proved a better example of modern Western music.

When I say Western music, I don't mean the Hank Williams kind. I'm talking about Manhattan and the nervous, exciting and tumultuous world of the late '40s, when young Leonard Bernstein was storming the citadel and bringing popular music into the concert hall.

The Symphony No. 2, called The Age of Anxiety after W.H. Auden's massive poem, premiered in 1949 at a time when Bernstein couldn't have been more fired up. He based his work loosely on the scenario of Auden's poem. Three men and a woman spend a night partying, only to find loneliness and alienation.

Bernstein later revised the work to keep the piano soloist active through the final movement, and to punch up the ending with one of his characteristically moving anthems of hope (think the finale of Candide).

Always a musical magpie, the composer was less obviously cribbing tunes or ideas in the early works, and the Symphony No. 2 actually shows the seeds of his own genius which would later appear brilliantly in masterpieces like On the Town, Wonderful Town or West Side Story.

The important piano role, kind

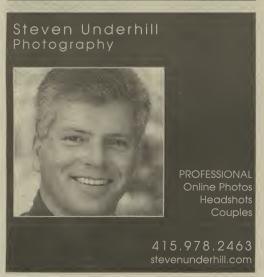
The important piano role, kind of a one-person Greek chorus, has been essayed here twice before by the orchestra's principal keyboardist Robin Sutherland — to especially thrilling effect a few years back with Michael Tilson Thomas conducting.

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# A 'Screw' done right

### Britten's 'Turn of the Screw' out on DVD

by Tim Pfaff

he masterful, spellbinding new DVD of Benjamin Britten's The Turn of the Screw (BBC Opus Arte) goes a long way to tip the balance toward filmed versions as the preferred ways to record opera on video. While opera-lovers are famously willing to overlook the cruelest close-ups of their favorite singers in videos of live performances in exchange for the heat of the onstage moment, this visually as well as musically stunning filmed version of Britten's 1954 chamber opera proves beyond a doubt that it doesn't always take an audience to get performances of the top caliber from musicians.

Most film versions of opera

Most film versions of opera have failed because of their directors' inability to bridge the two media without making both the singers and the operatic situations look fake or otherwise out of synch. Director Katie Mitchell, designer Alison Chitty, and director of photography Nick Morris have made a film of the opera that brings the score to vivid life without a single gratuitous shot. Everything this ace team does adds to the cumulative effect of this relentlessly tense opera without once pre-empting its purely musical substance.

The only ground this exemplary production doesn't break is proposing a "once-and-for-all" unpacking of the sexual mystery at the center of the opera (and, for that matter, the Henry James novella on which it is based). Leaving the ambiguity is further to its credit. While James and Britten, both gay, left ample evidence



that they saw the relationship between the young boy Miles and his one-time guardian Peter Quint (dead, but all the more present as a ghost) as sexual — that is, homosexual, and pedophilic — in nature, neither spells it out in the way their counterparts in our century would have to.

tury would have to.

"That this 'reluctant homosexual' [Britten] should see life from
the vantage point of a knowing innocent caught between a threatening lover and stifling motherfigure is perhaps too down-toearth for the rarified atmosphere
of James, and ultimately too reductive in general," wrote the late
Philip Brett, Britten scholar
supreme and a prime mover in
gay music criticism, in his indispensable notes to the equally superb Virgin Classic CD of Screw.
"But it is preferable to a reading
that sacrifices the composer to the
abstraction of his score." This production heeds Brett's counsel,
with no loss of power or sense of

Mark Padmore, who gets the first words as the anonymous narrator, becomes a Peter Quint of suave, seething menace, but no common, unctuous pedophile. Lisa Milne as the Governess dispatched to take care of Miles and his sister Flora at their English countryside estate (which provides some of the DVD's richest, eeriest images without compromising its essential claustrophobia) dominates the production — as a good Governess should — both with her sympathetic performance and with breasts so imposing they almost become characters on their own. The impression they make on the camera makes you wonder how stifling Nicholas Kirby Johnson's Miles finds them.

Britten turned the screw on James' already taut tale, which already wastes not a word. Tom Sutfliffe's excellent DVD notes, which directly address the gay issues, say that Britten (Brett says his librettist, Myfanwy Piper) added to James a line from Yeats, "The ceremony of innocence is drowned." Water is everywhere in the words, music, and film images, and drown in it innocence decisively does in this reading of almost unbearably mounting tension.

bearably mounting tension.

The film allows the singers not to look like they're singing when they're expressing their private thoughts. What's as gratifying is how well the production team gets the interactions among characters right. Then, the singing looks so natural it feels unsung, like conversation.

In a uniformly fine cast, Catrin Wyn Davies sings a Miss Jessel, Quint's fellow ghost and victim, of

next page 🕨

# A great guilty pleasure

### Classic camp 'The Turning Point' on DVD

by Tavo Amador

retentious hokum is often more fun than a master-piece. Herbert Ross' The Turning Point ('77), starring Anne Bancroft as an aging ballerina and Shirley MacLaine as her dearest friend, a dancer who gave up her career for marriage and family, is a career for marriage and family, is a perfect example of enjoyable non-sense. It's now available on DVD and is guaranteed to induce giggles, perhaps guffaws.

It begins in Oklahoma City, where the American Ballet Company (deatly the American Ballet Tompany (deatly the American Ballet)

pany (clearly, the American Ballet Theatre) is appearing. DeeDee (MacLaine), her husband and former dancer, Wayne (Tom Sker-ritt), their three children, includ-ing Emelia (Leslie Browne) and Ethan (Philip Saunders), are hosting a post-opening party for the company at their home. Emelia and Ethan study ballet at their parents' school. At the theatre, DeeDee greets former colleagues, including the company's bitchy, Lucia Chase-like Executive Director, Adelaide (Martha Scott). But the emotional highlight is DeeDee's reunion with Emma (Bancroft), whom she hasn't seen in years. Emma performs her sig-nature role, Anna Karenina, a part she and DeeDee had competed for pregnancy forced her to

Emelia successfully auditions Emelia successfully auditions for the company. She and DeeDee head for New York. Emma mentors Emelia while star dancer Yuri (Mikhail Baryshnikov) seduces her. DeeDee relives her own youthful dreams of fame and success, but resents Emma's playing mother to Emelia. Emma, meanwhills is expressing a consider to see the work. while, is suffering a *crise de nerfs* over the imminent end of her career. Her married, longtime lover (Marshall Thompson) no longer offers to divorce his wife if she gives up dancing to wed him — she has turned him down too often in the past. When he asks if she wants him to hang around, she nods. "Might as well finish the

Dancing in the opening night gala, Emelia shines and Emma triumphs, but DeeDee remains conumphs, but DeeDee remains conflicted. At the post-performance reception, Emma kneels before Emelia, earning thunderous applause but further angering DeeDee. Then Adelaide brutally asks Emma to stage Sleeping Beauty the following season, signaling that her prima ballerina reign is over Devastated Emma flees to over. Devastated, Emma flees to the bar, where she finds DeeDee. They engage in a memorable verbal, then physical fight, which ends outside Lincoln Center.

The script skips around homo-sexuality and ballet. Ethan loves baseball as much as dance, prov

frightening vocal power and focus. Padmore shows that he's as

good a Britten tenor as we have,

with all the requisite qualities — that austere, heady, text-centered

that austere, heady, text-centered sound that seems placed smack behind the eyeballs — plus unapologetically beautiful singing tone. Milne is so deeply invested in er character you almost forget to notice how fine-grained and assured her singing is — until she lets the verses of Miles' desperate-

**Turn of Screw** 

previous page



ing he's really a "normal" boy. Emma says DeeDee married Wayne to prove he wasn't "queer" used pejoratively. Later
 DeeDee confesses that to Wayne who says he knew, adding that he married her to establish his het-erosexuality! These howlers were written by the gay Arthur Lau-rents, who should have known

But nothing is as hilarious as Bancroft's performance. She's seen having just danced, about to dance, ready to rehearse, just comdance, ready to rehearse, just completing rehearsal, but never actually performing. She periodically strikes ballet poses — from the waist up. Her *longueurs* are a hoot. Her sighs could be heard in the back row of the last balcony of the Mattenglith. Metropolitan Opera House. As she laments her lonely future, she does everything but grab her tem-ples and moan, "God! The pain of it all!" Occasionally, Bancroft's na-tive Bronx accent slips through her grand *Theatah* speak. Such campy emoting from an accomcampy emoting from an accom-plished actress is riveting and was rewarded. Bancroft was named best actress by the National Board of Review and nominated for a Golden Globe and an Oscar.

By comparison, MacLaine, who also got an Oscar nod, is restrained, despite being burdened by often inane dialogue. Poor DeeDee finally asks Emma if she was good enough to professionalwas good enough to professionally threaten her. Emma ruefully admits she was, and concedes she would have done anything, including manipulating DeeDee into having Wayne's baby, to create Anna Karenina. Just why DeeDee waited so long to ask this critical extension is nevertically. critical question is never articulated. Fortunately, neither actress recites Robert Frost's "The Road Not Taken," nor do we see *Anna* Not laken," nor do we see Anna Karenina performed — how would the finale be staged? MacLaine delivers the film's bitchiest line with deadly precision. When Emma brags, "I danced better tonight than I have in years," DeeDee retorts, "So I heard?"

ly sad "Malo" song, as the child dies in her arms, tear your heart out. She nails you to what's left of your sanity with them.

Even more than Milnes'

Even more than Milnes' breasts, every player in The City of London Sinfonia, under Richard Hickox, should be listed in the cast of this astonishingly detailed realization of the score. The playing, especially the harp's and piano's, is masterful, pointed and chilling. This DVD is as perfect as *The Turn of the Screw* is a perfect opera. There could be no better model for all future film realizations of opera.

New York City Ballet's Leslie Browne is charming as Emelia, earning a Best Supporting Actress Academy Award nomination. Baryshnikov also got a nomination, although as an actor he does little except look hot, bed balleri-nas, and assure viewers of his heterosexuality. Scott is superb as Adelaide, obsessed with rich Adelaide, obsessed with rich donors while treating dancers as transitory annoyances needed by a ballet company. Skerritt is fine in the thankless role of Wayne. Daniel Evans is a high-strung, presumably gay choreographer, and James Mitchell plays the "discreetly" gay Artistic Director. The legendary Russian prima ballerina Alexandra Danilova is appealing as Madame Dahkarova, a ballet teacher.

The sensational dancing redeems much. Ross and his Execu-tive Producer wife, the celebrated ballerina Nora Kaye, capture the excitement of ballet. Baryshnikov, dancing scenes from *Giselle* and *Le* Corsair, among others, is breath-taking. Browne is brilliant. Others making fleeting but memorable appearances are Fernando Bu-jones, Suzanne Farrell, Peter Mar-tins, Marcia Hayden, Martine van Hamel, and the lovely Antoinette

Hamel, and the love, Sibley.

The Turning Point garnered 11
Oscar nominations, including Best Picture, Director, and Screenplay, but won none. It was also a boxoffice hit. Twenty-eight years later, it's a classic guilty pleasure. ▼

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STARTS

FRIDAY, MAY 27

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BERKELEY

# **Farewell to Liberty Avenue**

Gay soap 'Queer as Folk' prepares for its final bow

by David Nahmod

fter five seasons of compelling drama, the first time in TV history that queers have headlined a continuing drama, Showtime's Queer as Folk prepares to air its fifth and final season.

This will no doubt surprise QAF's legions of fans. They may be more surprised to learn that Showtime was more than willing to continue with the show. It was the producers who decided it was time to move on.

Says co-executive producer Daniel Lipman, "We didn't pull the plug on the show. The show was always designed to run for five years. That was our goal. Queer as Folk came out like a comet, burning bright and hot. We wanted to maintain that, keep it challenging, honest, brave, outrageous, sexual and definitely not politically correct. We never wanted it to lose its edge."





The cast of Queer as Folk: 'challenging, honest, brave, outrageous, sexual and definitely not politically correct.'

QAF isn't just a show about buffed, pretty boys dancing the night away at Babylon. At heart, it's a saga about a close-knit group of gay friends getting through life in the rather conservative town of Pittsburgh, PA.

Many of the issues we face here in the Bay Area were faced by our new friends on Liberty Ave.: on-the-job homophobia, gay bashing, HIV, drug abuse, starting alternative families, career choices and changes, and yes, break-ups. QAF presents these issues with nary a false note. Our friends always know they can stop by the diner for a cup of java and some words

of wisdom from Debbie (Sharon Gless), the somewhat outrageous but queer-loving mother we all wished we'd had.

wished we'd had.

The characters actually grew as the show progressed. Michael (Hal Sparks) began as an immature, closeted man-child. He's now happily married in Canada to the HIV-positive Ben (Robert Gant). The two have adopted a teenage, HIV-positive hustler, and are raising him as their own son.

Brian (Cale Harold) began as a drug-abusing creen who slent

Brian (Gale Harold) began as a drug-abusing creep who slept with everyone in sight, then discarded them like yesterday's stale bread. Then he met the beautiful, young, naive Justin (Randy Harrison). Brian taught Justin how to party and how to go after his dreams, Justin taught Brian how to love.

Five years ago, Melanie and Lindsay (Michelle Clunie, Thea Gill) were the picture of stability on Liberty Avenue. They were two career women with a nice house and a son. Now they are a former couple involved in a nasty custody battle.

As years pass, things and people change. For the first time in TV history, a show had the courage to present these changes from a gay and lesbian point of view.

### Vision thing

"We're very proud of QAF," says Lipman. "We, the producers, stayed with the show for its entire run, to maintain our vision. I believe we did. But we didn't want the show to dribble on and on for 10 years, for people to get bored. We completed the story we set out to do."

So what can viewers expect from this senior year? The folks on Liberty Ave. continue to deal with new challenges. Debbie now has a man in her life, and contemplates giving up her job at the diner. Debbie's man, Det. Carl Horvath, may have shown the most growth of all. When first seen, he was a homophobic cop, making snide remarks as he investigated the murder of a young gay man. But the brash Debbie "explained" things to him. Carl fell in love

with Debbie and learned a lot about her community. In a moving scene early in the final season, Carl reaches out to Emmett (Peter Paige) in friendship.

Justin is back in town after a failed foray to Hollywood. Brian, now a successful businessman, is the new proud owner of Babylon, the club where he had some of his best times. Former porn star Emmett has a new on-camera career, as Channel 5's Queer Guy!

met has a new on-camera career, as Channel 5's Queer Guy!

In the saddest story of all, Michael, Melanie and Lindsay are fighting over the child Michael fathered with Melanie. Early in the season, feelings are deeply hurt as the various parties use whatever ammunition they can to win their case. How it will all be resolved remains to be seen.

The season's delightful surprise will be a new character introduced in the third episode. Look for a very famous lesbian to begin serving up burgers at the diner!

ing up burgers at the diner!

As QAF prepares to wind down, we might wonder how the actors felt about the experience. Scott Lowell, who played the codependent, lonely Ted, sums it up this way: "The show has made me feel more comfortable being a man. Just as the characters were boys at the start, so was I in a way. Careerwise, the impact remains to be seen, but the visibility has given me the opportunity to speak out and support a number of wonderful causes important to the gay community and the world."

Will there be any QAF reunion

Says Lowell, with a chuckle "Would it be shot in Hawaii?" ▼

Queer as Folk new episodes begin Sunday, May 22, 10 p.m. on Showtime network.



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# He wanted to take his boyfriend

'Prom Queen,' on DVD, is based on a true Canadian story

by David Lamble

here's a lot to be said for the now-on-DVD film Prom Queen, a fictionalized version of the story of 17-year-old Marc Hall, who in May 2002 became the Canadian poster-boy for the right to take your boyfriend to your school prom. As portrayed by TV star Aaron Ashmore, Marc emerges as a brash, blue-haired jokester, a kind of natural teen leader whose crusade just happens to be gay. Prom Queen's director John L'Ecquyer and screenwriter Kent Staines do a good job of positioning the story within the fold of a partially assimilated French-Canadian family. The father, an auto-worker (Quebec film actor Paul Zabrinski), and the mother, a housewife (Marie Tifo), have quietly accepted their son's homosexuality, but now the CBC has reporters parked outside their



door, and their lives will never be the same.

The question that always arises with a film "based on a true story" is, Just who were these people before Eyewitness News reinvented them for TV? Included in the DVD package is an independent documentary, "the

true story starring the real Marc Hall." It's not clear whether this feisty little film, whose crew hung out with the Halls from the day the story broke, is played in its entirety, but the 17 minutes we

do see is revealing.

The "real" Marc Hall comes off as a well-groomed, slender boy whose personality is still ricocheting along his own Richter Scale. Is he demurely passive, or more insidiously passive/aggressive, a shy boy or an embryonic "pushy bottom?" The true Marc Hall appears to be that subtle mix of butch and fem in a male package that drives real-life queer boys crazy, while actor Ashmore is giving us a more jocklike blend. It's a subtle and not wholly dishonest switch, like the difference in the George Mullen that Stephen McCauley created and the Hollywood version (Paul Rudd) in The Object of My Affection.

page **45** 

# Male beauty in a Bacon landscape

Daniel Craig on his starring role in crime film 'Layer Cake'

by David Lamble

aniel Craig had the good fortune of making one of those uniquely impressive screen debuts, in Love Is the Devil. screen debuts, in Love Is the Devil.
As a small-time thief and very clumsy burglar, his character literally drops through an open skylight and into the messy studio of the Irish-born British painter Francis Bacon. Bacon is saucily rendered by Derek Jacobi as one of the great screen protection. of the great screen monsters, a masochist in bed, and a sadist most everywhere else. Before Craig's George Dyer can utter a word, he's greeted by an offer from Bacon that he will not refuse.

"Take your clothes off, come to bed, and you can have whatever you want.

Eight years later, Craig's star is burning even brighter than the ubiquitous Jude Law. He says he doesn't remember all that much about the chaotic but brilliant shoot for his friend, writer/director John Maybury, that produced Love Is the Devil, though it's perhaps the most painfully honest and brutally intimate portrait of male lovers ever to hit the screen. Sitting in a gaudy San Francisco hotel ballroom, it seems a bit odd be discussing homosexual sadomasochism, even when it involves an artist like Bacon.

For Craig, it was a stark warning of what a young man might have to



Craig plays the never-named frontman of a criminal gang in Layer Cake.

do to pursue the art of film-acting. "Originally, Malcolm McDowell "Originally, Malcolm McDowell was going to play Francis Bacon, but he dropped out for personal reasons, and thankfully, Derek took the job on. There was very little challenge to the part because John's such a wonderful director to work with, apart from when he decided that I should be a 'flayed figure' on a diving board. Don't ask me why, because he's an artist, whatever, but because he's an artist, whatever, but I had to be covered in surgical adhesive for 12 hours, and I had to walk around on the set, naked, in

surgical adhesive for 12 hours, with everybody promising me that the showers worked, and when I got there, at the end of the day, there's a trickle of water that came out, which is when I kicked off and had a shit-fit. But what can you do —

I would love to get a hold of Daniel Craig's high school year-book picture. I bet this Liverpoolraised kid never really looked young or callow, or scared. Matthew Vaughn, who directed Craig in *Layer Cake*, a smart if darkly funny and dangerous take on the hierarchy of crime lords that control the drug trade in today's posh Britain, says he wanted Craig for the role of the never-named crime frontman because he didn't think the audience would accept an actor who was close to the actual age of the char-acter in J.J. Connolly's novel.

### Guy interrupted

At a key point halfway through Layer Cake, just as we realize that we may never learn this bloke's name, Craig's Anonymous, sitting naked to the waist in a hotel room, waiting for a midday tryst with a lovely up-scale hooker played by Sienna Miller, is snatched out of his rever-Miller, is snatched out of his reveries of foreplay, and taken off blind-folded to meet a very bad man atop a very tall building. I noted that the film is very good at creating sexual tension and then confounding our expectations about just what kind of creating water beyond for

of orgasm we're headed for.
Craig, who has just wittily apologized for flubbing the word "anonymously" to explain his character's lack of a name ("bloody early in the morning"), comes back with a very precise de-finition of the relationship be-tween celluloid and sex. "I think every piece of cinema has some sexual tension in it. If it doesn't have sexual tension in it, then it doesn't exist as a piece of cinema." Every Daniel Craig fan trea-

sures his performance as the

randy handyman in *The Mother*, writer Hanif Kureishi and director Roger Mitchell's stark but sensitive rendition of an affair that tive rendition of an affair that erupts between Craig's sexy carpenter and the 65-year-old mother (Anne Reid) of his girlfriend. Craig says *The Mother* was a real challenge. "I read the script, and I was terrified of it. I didn't want to do it. Roger insisted I come and that the bire and thought his hold of the company of the property of the company of the compan do it. Roger insisted I come and talk to him, and thankfully he did. He could, as they say, charm the birds from the trees. I just said, 'I don't like any of these people, and I don't see where it's going,' and Roger said, 'Well, that's the point.'
"The character I play. Roger

"The character I play, Roger just said, 'Play yourself.' Hanif's script, it's a subject that hasn't been addressed. I hope that at 67, I'm fucking, I mean I really do. We have to get our heads around the fact that it's not all going to stop

fact that it's not all going to stop at 60, or 70, or 80, even."

Craig says he's as thrilled as you might expect he'd be at the prospect of working on a new film for Steven Spielberg. "I can't talk about it, or they'll break my legs," he jokes, and adds that the gossip about his being the new James Bond is just that, gossip.

Looking with his current blonde hairdo like the kind of rough but elegant British everyman in the mold cast by Michael Caine so many years ago in Alfie,

man in the mold cast by Michael Caine so many years ago in Alfie, Craig says he means to play his current hot hand at the movies, until one day he'll be rich enough to afford a Francis Bacon.

As 1 think of Craig now, as 1 write this, I have to chuckle at the image of this very sophisticated actor, from my dad's hometown, sitting before a roaring fireplace, with Francis Bacon's "Head Surrounded By Sides of Beef" on the wall of his manor living room—
Bacon's most notorious canvas, described by critic and nun Sister Wendy Beckett as "this ghostly vision of a screaming pope, his face frozen in a rictus of anguish." frozen in a rictus of anguish. Opens Friday. ▼

### Mambo Kings

and New York, of the early 1950s. That's the backdrop for a story of two brothers who leave Cuba hop-ing to ride the mambo craze to stardom, but who become entangled in romantic jealousies and professional battles. Arne Glimch-er, who directed the movie, is also staging the musical and providing lyrics for new songs composed by Carlos Franzetti.

Carlos Franzetti.

But more than any research, Trujillo gives credit to his family for instilling the Latin rhythm in his blood. "My family is a big, huge kind of dance family," he said. "I grew up with salsa, mambo, merengue, rumba, samba, cha cha cha, and everything."

When he was 12, he moved with his family from Colombia to Canada. "I competed in salsa contests, and I knew I was the best disco dancer in high school," he said. But a career in dance wasn't

said. But a career in dance wasn't

"I came to dance late, when I was 19," he said. "In my first year was 19, he said. In my list year at the University of Toronto, I was getting my degree in biochemistry, and then I ended up in chiropractor school, and halfway through that I met choreographer Michael Peters, and he told me I needed to go dance. So I took his advice, and took a year off from school, and that was that." Within three years

he was dancing on Broadway.

And how did his family feel about this change in career? "It was tricky," Trujillo said. "They didn't understand it. It wasn't until I brought them to New York. to watch me in Jerome Robbins' Broadway that they kind of got it. And then with my second show Guys and Dolls, they really got it. And they knew I was never going back to school."

Trujillo said, "It's more chal-

lenging being gay in a Latin culture than being a gay in an Anglo-Saxon culture. But my parents never said, 'Oh, you want to dance. That's a sissy sport.' Those boundaries were never set for me, and those stereotypes were never and those stereotypes were never whispered in my ear in any way." Trujillo, partnered for 14 years,

doesn't find much professional relevance in being gay or straight. "In terms of my sexuality, I never think of it as I'm gay therefore I'm better

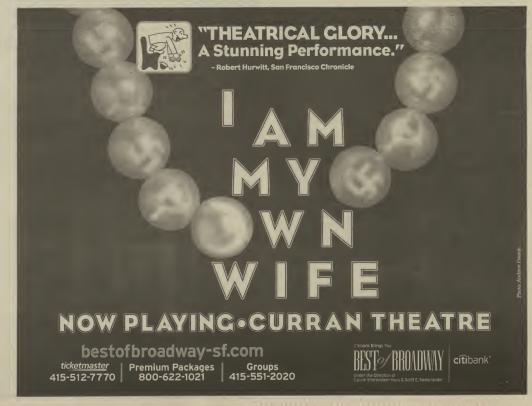
at this, or I'm not right for it, or my sensibilities are different. My heritage and my sexuality never come into play. Maybe that's why I've been able to break the rules as far as been able to break the rules as far as starting late and achieving something really fast, because I never really put a label onto who I was."

If All Shook Up continues its run, and The Mambo Kings and Jersey Boys stay on track, Trujillo will hove these shower running.

will have three shows running concurrently on Broadway.

"I never expected to be hitting a hat trick," he said. "You know, I'm not a young buck, but I sort of feel I'm a late bloomer. I always come into everything late and al-ways make the most of it." ▼

The Mambo Kings will run May 24-June 19 at the Golden Gate Theatre. Tickets are \$25-\$85. Call 512-7770 or go to



# Child's play

### Glass and company score a knock-out in 'Les Enfants Terribles'

by Michael McDonagh

ove, or what we think is love, is a part of the game sex plays. And secrets can have a hand in it, too. This wouldn't matter if we made grown-up decisions. But the two principal characters, the spoiled rich brother and sister pair Paul and Elisabeth in Jean Cocteau's Les Enfants Terribles, don't. They're teenagers who want the world to play by the rules of their game, and when it doesn't, destruction follows. The French poet-playwright-novelist-visual artist-director and all-around-provocateur always had magic up his sleeve. Les Enfants Terribles, which he first wrote as a novel in 1929, came out of the grief he felt for his lover, the extraordinarily gifted writer Raymond Radiguet, who died at 23. Some of this got into the character of Paul, as well as the boy he loves,

Dargelos. Philip Glass' 1996 music/theaterwork of the same name is as clear and haunted as the original, and it's about the price of obsession. As such, it seems a natural for the composer whose music is often ostinatobased. Though the Italian translates as "obstinate," it always implies obsession, and Glass' stacked and staggered rhythms are a perfect analog, and deeply psychological, too.

His piece, which he calls a dance/opera/spectacle, was done with American choreographer Susan Marshall, whose work takes "gestures from daily life" to arrive at deeper meanings. This is a common working method for many artists of her generation, and the American premiere of Les Enfants at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, which I attended, was full of pedestrian actions which she made mysterious by virtue of their ordinariness, as her eight dancers shad-



owed the four singers on stage. Not everyone in Cocteau's meditation on fractured identity tells the truth, certainly not Paul's jealous sister, and Marshall's inventions made us see why. Though the piece was a complete success in the theatre (and a sexy one, too, with everyone in silk dressing gowns and undies), heard here just as music with singers it's every bit as successful, so fully has Glass imagined Cocteau's world as sound.

This is equally true of the other two installments in his Cocteau trilogy: Opphee ('92), based on the auteur's '50 film of the same name, and La Belle et la Bete ('84), in which he removed Auric's original film score and replaced it with music of his own invention sung by live singers interacting with their screen characters. Each of the three pieces has a distinct sound, the first for chamber orchestra, the second for Glass' ensemble of amplified winds and keyboards, and this for three pianos. The staged version, for reasons of economy,

was for three digital pianos. But Glass' music director Michael Riesman says the composer was inspired to write for this complement when he heard how great acoustic pianos sounded when they used them in Palermo, Sicily when touring Belle.

when touring Belle.

We get three nine-foot grandshere — a Yamaha and two Baldwins — for which Riesman says he used "a fair amount of digital compression to make them sound as big as they do." The percussive nature of much of the writing recalls but doesn't sound like Stravinsky's dance opera Les Noces ('17), and it's suitably raw, driving, or whisper-soft, as played here by Glass, Nelson Padgett and Eleanor Sandresky under conductor Karen Kamensek. The script, in French, is a model of economy — nothing's there that doesn't tell us something about the characters and their psychology.

### **Grand finale**

Glass' vocal-writing has the character of heightened speech, and his singers, all veterans of the first production, are up to his demands. Soprano Christine Arand's Lise is a bit more sympathetic than the one in the book and Melville's film of it, but her high-lying tessitura is suitably nervous and duplicitous, and she's frenetic and grand in her final moment. Bass-baritone Philip Cutlip's Paul occupies his middle register, as does a lot of mezzo Va-

lerie Komar's Agathe, whom Lise plots against; she also sings Dargelos, Cutlip gives a superlative performance — focused, well-modulated, rock-solid in pitch and rhythm — plus he's a looker. Komar is equally impressive, as is tenor Hal Cazalet as the narrator, in English, and as Paul's quite-smitten-with-him friend, Gerard.

Paul persists in loving the bully Dargelos, who's literally wounded him with a snowball. Cocteau puts it this way: "It was the worse for him [Paul] because he was condemned to love without forewarning of love's nature." All his characters pass through its fire. These Children of The Game seem to bear out Pascal's pensee, "The heart has reasons of which reason itself knows nothing." Their emotions are foregrounded, but the whys and wherefores remain murky, as in life.

but the whys and wherefores remain murky, as in life.

\*\*Les Enfants haunts the mind and ear. It understands what can't be said: "a private bell," as Tristan Tzara said, "for inexplicable needs." Easily one of Glass' greatest pieces, from an artist who frequently delivers masterpieces. His newish label Orange Mountain Music is also releasing his '04 Athens Olympic piece Orion in July, with \*The Voyage\* due in November. His finest advocate, Dennis Russell Davies, conducts the world premiere of \*Waiting for the Barbarians,\* to Christopher Hampton's script, at the Erfurt Opera, this September 10. ▼



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# Passing the Rachmaninov test

Three pianists try their hands at the Second Piano Sonata

by Tim Pfaff

t was only a matter of time until three record companies released new recordings of the same work simultaneously. You'd hardly know that Rachmaninov's Second Piano Sonata, Op. 36, was the same piece from the interpretations it receives from Olga Kern (Harmonia Mundi), Hélène Grimaud (DG), and Simon Trpceski (EMI), but that's not something that would have bothered Rachmaninov and so shouldn't us.

Newcomers to the piece — particularly those without the explosive performance of Horowitz (RCA) in their aural memory banks — would do well to begin with Kern's. Her interpretation lays out the notes like a CD-ROM program showing you the score as you listen. Everything is right where it belongs in this unostentatious, thoughtful account of the piece. Her CD as a whole — which includes a bevy of smaller Russian works (including a matter-of-fact Balakirev "Islamey," which no longer separates virtuosos from the rest of the pack now that you can hardly avoid it) — shows that Kern is rapidly becoming an artist of some depth and maturity. Still, what follows the Sonata — particularly the fine "Elégie" from Rach-



maninov's Morceaux de fantasie, Op. 3 — indicates that Kern might have been wiser to leave her Second Sonata in the cask longer before corking it. In its 1931 revised version (which all three pianists play, more or less), it's one of the composer's most substantive and concentrated piano works, and there's something almost facile about Kern's reading of this infamous bear of a composition that's ultimately disappointing.

She's still more impressive than interesting. The big figure that cascades down the keyboard at the outset of the work and turns into a motif throughout is dispatched with zipper-like efficiency and the sterility of surgical stitches when something more lacerating is in order.

Better making too little of the piece, it turns out, than making too much of it. Grimaud introduces her interpretation with one of her quasi-mystical program notes



about the centrality of death in the sonata (and in Chopin's Second, with which she pairs it because both are in B-flat minor and Rachmaninov kept the Chopin sonata at the center of his repertoire as a pianist).

center of his repertoire as a pianist). I have no objection to her hearing whatever she wants in the piece, but when her superimposed thoughts produce an interpretation as disfigured as her new one, you start to wonder how she gets DG to give her so much head. Like Horowitz, she restores some of the 1913 music Rachmaninov cut to make his '31 revision, another liberty she's entitled to. The problem lies in how unevenly she plays it all.

There are some real flashes of brilliance here. Grimaud remains one of the most gifted pianists around, and it's gratifying to hear any present musician take the kinds of I: with a score that

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# Double your pleasure with Lea DeLaria

She brings jazz vocals to modern rock standards on her new CD

by Gregg Shapiro

f you enjoyed Lea DeLaria's celebrated 2001 jazz vocal debut disc *Playin' It Cool* and have been awaiting her next foray into jazz vocals, your patience is about to be rewarded. *Double Standards* (Telarc), originally scheduled to be released in 2003, is foolly such as the standards of the scheduled to be released in 2003, is foolly such as the scheduled to be released in 2003, is foolly such as the scheduled to be released in 2003, is foolly such as the scheduled to be released in 2003, in foolly such as the scheduled to be released in 2003, in foolly such as the scheduled to be released in 2003, in fool such as the scheduled to be released to the scheduled scheduled to be released in 2003, is finally seeing the light of day. DeLaria, best known for her stand-up comedy and acting roles, now turns to modern rock standards such as Green Day's "Longview" and Los Lobos' "Kiko and the Lavender Moon," reinvestitat themer

and the Lavender Moon," reinventing them.

Lea DeLaria: I recently was the featured vocalist for the 50th anniversary of the Newport Jazz Festival tour. This is a big deal tour, we are going into big halls, we've got Cedar Walton, Lew Tabackin, Ken Peplowski, we've got huge names in jazz, and I'm looking out at the audience, and it's Cocoon 3, baby! It's all alter-cockers! With this record, I am desperately trying to get people in jazz to realize that they can't just keep reinventing the same tunes over and over again. Jazz has changed. That's what Miles Davis and Charlie Parker were all about. This is the music of the college-age set, and music of the college-age set, and we're swinging it!

Gregg Shapiro: You set your sights on punk and modern rock. by revising songs by No Doubt,

The Pretenders, and Patti Smith.

To me, those are classic rock tunes, because that's my rock era. I wanted to do tunes that people way that people are halfway through the Pretenders song and then finally realize it's a Pretenders song. People will know the music, and in some ways sing along. The "Just a Girl" one, I know every gay "Just a Girl" one, I know every gay man hears that and just goes nuts. That's the quintessential gay favorite. "Call Me" really swings; it was getting airplay in Europe. Also, Neil Young's "Philadelphia" gets a lot of airplay, so we'll see what happens in America with

People always focused on Spring-steen's Oscar-winning "Streets of Philadelphia," which is a good ong, but I always preferred the Young tune.

Please, Springsteen's doesn't even remotely... with all due re-spect to people who like him, he is nowhere near the musician that Neil Young is. That's a real song, that's a true gorgeous song, and it was a pleasure to do it and to have Stephon Harris playing vibes on

Soundgarden had one pretty song in their repertoire, and "Black Hole Sun" was it. You took it and



Swinging with college rock tunes

tunes without doing "Black Hole

You also enhanced the funky vibe of Jane's Addiction's "Been Caught Stealing," and you even left the genders of the original

song intact.

I always sing the lyrics. It's not about the singer, it's about the song. I've always felt that. Whatever song I sing, I always leave the gender intact. So if the song is sung to a woman, I'm singing it to a woman. If the song is sung to man, I'll sing it to a man. It's just my personal choice, and it always has been. songwriters. Have you gotten any

feedback from them?

I got a lovely little note from I got a lovely little note from Deborah Harry which basically said that she was jealous, she wished she had thought of doing it for her jazz record, which was really nice. The song "Alliance," I got a wonderful letter from Robert Wyatt. My girlfriend is the pianist in the Robert Wyatt band, and she had worked with him for years, but I didn't come to the song that way, the song was brought to me by the producer, I had never heard the song. I am curious to hear what Chrissie Hynde will say about "Tattoed Love Boy."

"Dancing Barefoot," please, I am the biggest Patti Smith fan of all time. I still listen to her all the time.

Are there any upcoming movie, TV or Broadway musical appearances in the works?

I am currently in an off-Broad-way show, Samuel Beckett's *Happy Days* at the Classic Stage Compa-

ny. It's a really weird play; well, it's ny. It's a really went play; went it's Beckett. That's the one where the woman is buried up to her waist in a mound in the first act, then buried up to her neck in the sec-

ond act, and it's a comedy!

There are three musicals in the pipe. One is based on the relationpipe. One is based on the relationship between Lorena Hickock and Eleanor Roosevelt, and it's all three characters: Franklin, Eleanor and Lorena. It's a lovely little piece, it's brand-new. I'm in a piece called *The Drowsy Chaperous which is cest to act a Broad*. one, which is set to go to Broad-way next season. Another piece, called *Alley Cats*, which is suppos-edly going to have me and Lily Tomlin, is going to be in Vancouver at the end of the year.

Lea DeLaria will perform selections from her Double Standards through May 22 at the Empire Plush Room, York Hotel, 940 Sutter St., SF. Tickets (\$30-\$35): (415) 885-2800 or www.plushroom.com.

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# **End of an era: Sweeps have swept**

by Victoria A. Brownworth

weeps month is winding down, and with it, the bigbang season finales. Will & Grace, CSI, The Apprentice, The O.C., Without a Trace and ER all have their season finales tonight, May 19. On May 22, it's Desperate Housewives, and next week, the finales of Medium, Law & Order: SVII and Aligs. Already wranped nates of Meatum, Law & Order: SVU and Alias. Already wrapped are CSI-NY, Law & Order, Num-bers and the incredible Lost. If you somehow missed the season finale of Lost, ABC is running it again on May 21. We're assuming *Boston Legal* 

will be back with a season finale. It's been on hiatus while ABC tried to garner a different audience with the sappy, annoying

Grey's Anatomy.

Then the summer of our dis-Then the summer of our discontent begins in earnest, as some of the midseason replacement shows (*Eyes*, ABC's very serviceable version of *Magnum*, *P.I.*; or *Grey's Anatomy*, ABC's very irritating version of *Chicago Hope*) have already wrapped all their new shows after six weeks. So has the very funny sitcom *Jake in Progress* and the superb new addi-Progress and the superb new addition to the L&O franchise, Law&Order: Trial by Jury. The tranny murder in that season finale was spectacularly good. We especially liked how the dead tranny's mothers between the good the good to go the control of the good to go the control of the good to go the good to go the go the good to go the liked how the dead trainly a hoto-er changed the gender on her daughter's birth certificate after the death to respect her wishes. Thus the murder was prosecuted

as the killing of a woman. It was perhaps the saddest episode yet, a little too *Romeo and Juliet*, but anyone who doubts the phenom-enon of Bebe Neuwirth's acting hasn't seen this show. If you loved her as Lilith on *Frasier*, be sure to tune into any re-run of this best of the *L* O franchise this summer.

Of course, summer is the time to catch re-runs of all the shows you didn't have time to watch or se-ries you weren't sure you wanted to commit

For example, we committed to The O.C. while Marissa having her too-Lavender brief affair with Alex, because it

was right after Bianca left All My Children with Maggie, The L Word Children with Maggie, The L Word wasn't living up to the promise of its first season, and we were jonesing for a lesbian couple. But then Marissa (or the producers) got cold feet, and instead of exploring one of the most interesting and complex relationships on a prime-time soap, Marissa start-ed salivating for Ryan again. (Not that he isn't cute and a bad boy, but we thought Alex, with her co-terie of lesbian friends, was pretty special and very well-suited to Marissa.)

But we admit we really liked The O.C. and all its Melrose Place-style melodrama. We recommend it for summer viewing. Light, frothy and not too filling, with more than

a soupcon of great bodies.

FOX, The WB and UPN are the places to cull new attachments summer. Shows like Gilmore Girls, House, Everwood, Dead-wood, Smallville and Veronica Mars are all worth watching, and some, like Everwood, have had ocative queer storylines here

Of course, these are the same networks bringing us new shows for the summer that are more like car accidents than series.
Britney Spears' reality series on UPN debuts

this week — it's called *Chaotic*. Right. *The* Simple Life: Interns has start-

ed up as well. Paris has start-ed up as well. Paris Hilton has dumped her best friend from childhood, Nicole Ritchie, for a new blonde bimbette. We are very over Hilton, thus will no longer be watching, but that doesn't mean you can't enjoy the train wreck

#### Crack houses

Tube

We admit to being hooked on A&E's disturbing reality series *In*tervention. Who knew all of straight suburban America was doing crystal meth and crack? Or gambling away their life savings? This very compelling look at just how much trouble America is in outside of Iraq is well worth a voyeuristic glance. It's more Oprah than Jerry Springer — in fact, Oprah has shown quite a few clips from the show, and had some of the interventionees on for fol-low-ups this season.

Speaking of Oprah, just about

every show of her new season has

Oprah fellated a fudgsicle on TV.

watching her fellate a fudgsicle on one of her lose-weight shows. (She looks fantastic, by the way.) She leaned over and sucked it right up into her mouth in the best gay-porn fashion. Later she noted that

she couldn't imagine what that looked like on TV. Yes, she could imagine. That's why she said it. And perhaps why

Speaking of fellating, we were as shocked as the next person to find out that D.A. Daniel Coulson was responsible for the wave of murders on *One Life to Live*. We were even more shocked to discover that he has a gay lover, al-though we were beginning to wonder if that might be the case when he was on his honeymoon with Nora, got a fax from his lover, and there was no name at-

ABC has kept very tight wraps on this story, only giving out cer tain numbers of script pages and so forth, in an effort to keep the surprise going. It worked. The storyline is moving into high gear. We'll keep you posted on the developments in yet another gay murder tale.

murder tale.
In an *OLTL* aside, we would like to note that Heather Tom, who plays Kelly Cramer on the soap, has been just everywhere doing AIDS-related charity work, although she seems to keep her profile low-key. It's good to see that some people haven't forgotten about AIDS.
Speaking of soaps, don't miss

Speaking of soaps, don't miss the Daytime Emmy Awards on May 20. We are keeping our fin-gers crossed for Eden Riegle. Even though she's no longer on *All My* Children, she certainly gave an Emmy-winning performance this season as the only lesbian on day-

time.

We did warn in our last column that the queers were being brought out of the closet for sweeps, but we have to admit even we were surprised when a murder on CSI-NY and another on CSI last week were both queer-related. Now if we could just get the net-works to put queer characters who are neither murderers nor murder victims in their storylines..

Of course, as you search for something on the tube this summer, there will be no dearth of news, between the "insurgency" in Iraq and the insurgency in the

Speaking of news, it really was an item worthy of Saturday Night Live when all the networks and

ONN had to scramble to try and CNN had to scramble to try and find a way to say President Bush was out riding his bike—at Noon on a Wednesday!!— when the White House and Capitol were evacuated last week because a plane flew directly into the airspace over both buildings. Where is Michael Moore when you need is Michael Moore when you need

But back to that pesky insurgency. Is President Bush's bikeriding schedule so full that he has had no time to mention the num-ber of killings taking place in Iraq on a daily basis? Where is that compassionate conservativism?

Just for the record, in case you don't watch the news: In March, there were 69 car bombings in Iraq. In April, there were 135. Thus far in May, there have been over 100. In the past two and a half weeks, more than 500 Iraqis have been killed in those attacks. To parallel: At the height of the Intifada in Israel, the number of suicide bombings never exceeded more than five in one month. We've asked this before, but

we we asked this before, but feel the need to reiterate: Deep down, do Americans (or at least Bush & Co.) think all Arabs are somehow implicated in their own murders? Because when more than 500 civilians, close to a third of them children, are murdered in a span of two weeks, and there is no comment from our government (we're the occupiers there, like it or not) and no outcry from the international community, something is terribly wrong. We just thought it might be the time to mention to the moral-values Administration that murder actu-

Administration that murder actu-ally is worthy of comment.

Speaking of news worthy of comment, why is the systematic raping and eviscerating of women raping and eviscerating of women and girls in the Republic of Congo, part of the terrorism there, not news? We've heard about it on BBC WorldNews and on NPR radio, and there's a big feature this month on the scope of the horror in Ms. magazine, but not a single mention of it on net-work news in the US. In the same week that 1,000 women were raped and mutilated (the soldiers there use knives, sticks and various other tools that make Abu Ghraib look like a day in the park) in Congo, there was not a single news item on any American net-work, including CNN, about the attacks. Yet there were numerous

attacks. Yet there were numerous stories about the runaway bride. Perhaps summer will be the time for TV to get its house in order. Stay tuned. ▼

### 1st Thur, 8:30-10:30pm 3rd Fri, 10pm-12:30am Get tested or ask a question. Confidential. Private area. 933 Harrison @ 5th In cooperation with AIDS Health Get tested every 6 months! (415) 777-HEAD; www.blowbuddies.com

Free HIV/STD testing



#### Rachmaninov

the composer himself would have. Yet Grimaud's tireless Death-spotting produces passages of horrific stridency and exaggeration.

Her Chopin Second also offers some playing of keen originality some playing of keen originality and notable beauty, until the pathologist and then coroner make their appearances. A booklet photo shows her standing next to railroad tracks with a Brendafrom-Six Feet Under stare. Maybe it's time for Grimaud, who has been an attest in the countries. been on retreat in the country a long time now, to backtrack on the Anna Karenina subtext and dip lightly back into civilization. The beautifully played Berceuse and Barcarolle are too little, too late.

Simon Trpceski wisely puts the Sonata at the end of his fascinating all-Rachmaninov disc. From that thundering first avalanche of



sound, vou know vou're in earshot sound, you know you're in earshot of a master pianist, and nothing Trpceski does from that point on is less than brilliant. He plays with Grimaud's freedom, but with a surer sense of the music's trajecto-ry. Freedom from having to make an extramusical "point" with his performance appears to have left him huge reservoirs of energy to apply to more pertinent matters.

Without a trace of eccentricity, Trpceski unleashes a performance of unbridled power and imagina-

tion the equal of Horowitz's, with more piercing lucidity. The sheer range of his playing is twice that of either of his current rivals, the melting legato and beauty of sound in the middle movement surpassing them both. His is by far the strongest realization of the greater tautness the composer sought with his revision. The most spitfire passages of the concluding Presto have a clarity few other pi-

The selection of Preludes and other short pieces that precede the Sonata are as astonishing for the specificity of their characterizaon as for their variety. From the thundering arpeggios of the open-ing B-Flat Prelude, Op. 23, No.2, a real attention-getter, Trpceski de-ploys a firm yet infinitely pliant tone and what is clearly one of the best brain-hand connections in the business. He passes the acid Rachmaninov test — making you choke up — countless times.

### Master's degree

by Jim Nawrocki

I Once Had a Master by John Preston; Cleis Press, \$14.95 (trade paper)

f there's ever a time when gay leather subculture is an historical footnote, a quaint phenomena studied by anthropologists, the erotic fiction of John Preston will no doubt serve as one of the best chronicles of it. Preston, who died in 1994, wrote and published widely. He penned more than 35 books, edited *The Advocate*, and contributed articles and essays to publications as diverse as *Drummer* and *Harper's*. He also edited numerous gay fiction anthologies. But he's perhaps best known (and loved) in the gay community for his S/M-themed erotica. In his written statements about the craft of writing porn, Preston makes no secret about the

fact that he was always pleased with the attention. He never shied away from his identity as a porn

The collection of stories in I Once Had a Master represents just a portion of Preston's output, but it explores the themes typical of his other fiction (including his famous novel Mr. Benson, which was itself born of a short story). The title piece is a brief, almost fable-like offering that seems to reverse the old literary theme of "the young man from the provinces" who ventures forth into the excitement of the city. In Preston's little tale, an anonymous young man in an unnamed, essentially generic city ventures regularly to the country estate of a master he has come to know there. Dutifully, ritually, he serves the master and bends to his will—but eventually breaks from him out of the fear that he would "forget that [the master] was not

God." In some ways, the first story serves as a template for the ones that follow.

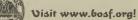
Preston's fiction succeeds as erotica because he provides at least as much description of his characters' psychological states, and of the motives for their dominance and servitude, as he does of his descriptions of the sex itself. The story "Pedro," for example, depicts a young man's first love with, and eventual declaration of independence from a seductive, powerful and controlling older man. Preston takes pains to establish tensions between his characters, such as those driven by ethnic and class distinctions, and thus creates a level of sophistication not often found in erotica. He even uses a description of the older lover's relationship with the young man's parents as an illustration of the lover's ability to influence all of the people around him.



The stories in this collection take place in a variety of locales: Boston, New York, San Francisco, Provincetown, and even Provincetown, and even Provincetown.

dence, Rhode Island — locations that Preston was certainly familiar with in his own travels. In an epilogue to this collection, Preston addresses a question of whether or not his erotica is autobiographical. Though he stops short of admitting that it is, he does note that some of the stories were written for specific people. That's one explanation for the emotional depth that Preston achieves in many of these stories. Preston never pretends that it's great literature, but it's clear — and it has been to Preston's fans for decades — that it's something more than run-of-the-mill pornography. ▼

### Bears of San Francisco . . . fun, fellowship, fur!



The Bears of San Francisco is a member club of the ICF that supports the community, raising money that the ICF gives to needy folk!



For more information visit www.4icf.org

### **Emotional rescue**

by Jim Piechota

The Tricky Part by Martin Moran; Beacon Press; 23.95

ew York City-based writer and actor Martin Moran has been performing the stage version of this memoir throughout the country to high acclaim. Here, in print form, his story of childhood sexual abuse is no less devastating and achingly poignant.

poignant.

Moran grew up in a strictly religious family in Denver, was wiry and awkward, and attended a faith-based grade school. "Halloween is nothing to a kid from Catholic school. Everywhere you look, there's blood, and gore and metaphor." At 12, he meets Bob, a prior counselor from St. Malo's Boys' Camp in the Colorado Rockies run by the Archdiocese of Denver, who is planning to start his own boys' club facility. Moran, overly excited at the prospect of someone actually wanting and needing his help, volunteers to assist Bob with a summer full of manual labor and camaraderie. This friendship turns ugly when



ONE BOX STATE LEGIS CRESPONDED IN

Bob slips into Moran's bed and molests him repeatedly, confusing the boy as to what kinds of affection are natural and normal, and what kinds should be rejected.

Their relationship, both daily and nightly, grows into a bizarre kind of love, one where the older Bob coddles Moran into submission, and where Moran feels validated and eventually eroticizes the older man's need for his company. As years pass and Moran enters adolescence, he considers himself a "second-class scout and cock-

sucker, straight-A altar boy and slut," but has to work harder to keep the sexual interactions with Bob a secret, since there were several other boys Bob was molesting at the camp. Bob and Moran's liaison grows even more complicated and sordid when a coerced threesome is orchestrated with Karen, Bob's girlfriend.

The end of their affair, when Bob is arrested on multiple child-

The end of their affair, when Bob is arrested on multiple child-molestation charges, pales in comparison to Moran's brave confrontation with him, lying in a convalescent hospital, regretful but spewing out a battalion of excuses. Turbulent still is Moran's present-day struggle with his emotional/sexual condition with Henry, his partner of 17 years, surely a rock of faith and devotion after Moran confesses to numerous compulsive, anonymous sexual encounters, which he attributes back to Bob.

This is a heart-wrenching chronicle of innocence lost, and the painful, lifelong scars that sexual-abuse survivors endure. Tragic, timely, dexterously written, and flooded with emotion, Moran's story spotlights the consequences of a catastrophic subject whose importance cannot be overstated. ▼



#### SF Symphony

**◄** page **32**

I guess it was only fair to offer the plum part to another pianist this time around, especially since Orli Shaham (little sister of violinist Gil) is married to David Robertson.

Ms. Shaham has the energy and agility to tackle the excruciatingly difficult part with ease. What she lacks is the snazzy nonchalance and sense of timing that Sutherland brought to the score. It isn't enough to hit the notes; Bernstein is also asking for an interpretation.

Hubby David (what an attractive and talented artist) kept the tempo sensibly four-square. This was his second appearance this season, and he is a welcome guest, obviously capable in a variety of genres. His sympathy for his wife's rather stolid approach was admirable.

The outline of the score and the daunting dexterity required of all the musicians were adequately met, but MTT has Bernstein and Gershwin and all those Manhattanite jazz/classicists in his blood, and Robertson couldn't match the memory, even with his own accomplished but unsophisticated soloist.





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Main screen. Zmowes change Monday/Zmowies change Fin Lower Lounge Screen. Four movies change Wedn Upper Lounge Screen. Three Special Movies Change Fo.



Revisit the Cassandra myth in Spit/Kiss at Jon Sims Center. See Friday

### Calendare by Mark Mardon

# **Light trash**

his week I write from the belly of the beast, the lower chacra. That's where our most primitive urges are located. In yoga they call it, politely, the perineum. Focus the mind in that area and you get a certain primeval energy surge. Add vodka to the mix and goddess knows where you'll end up, likely smashed and horny. Last weekend it landed a trio of my friends and me in the Mission District Cala, doing the early-morning after-hours shop for fruit and tonic (to add to the vodka), and you can see the results for parameters at he lavelies proced.

yourself as the lovelies posed atop a trash receptacle outside the store. I caught the moment with my old Polaroid. The one



by drag queens, or patronized by drag queens, or employ celebrity drag queens as DJs, emces, door persons, coat checkers, bartenders and the like. If the world is going to perdition, would you rather go there penitent, on your knees, with some uptight priest muttering incantations . . . or with a sassy drag queen on her knees, worshiping you with volka-kissed lips?

incantations . . . or with a sassy drag queen on her knees, worshiping you with vodka-kissed lips?

If I were much younger and had a chauffer and limousine, I'd be
checking out all the exciting drag/sleaze clubs that are happening
about town, and there are lots. It's heaven for perverts out there!
While at times I do enjoy posh, refined clubs, mostly I seek clubs
where the gals focus on their lower chacras, making them loose and
goosey, rather than high-falootin' chic drag clubs where the ladies
focus more on their crown chacras, making them airheads.

Take "Trannyshack" for instance, a lower chacra kind of place. If
those ladies focused more on their crown chacras, they'd be doing
nice, polite drag shows for Sunday schools, and civilization wouldn't be so close to complete moral decay. But since complete moral
decay is already here, hell, they might as well bask in it!

Speaking of complete moral decay, that same night my friends
and I went on our little outing to Cala, I first popped in for a quick
party stop at Ggreg Taylor's pad in the Haight, which was packed
with bears and artists and combinations thereof. The vodka was
flowing as Ggreg screened a totally warped film, The Apple (1980),
by Israeli filmmaker Menahem Golan. The IMDb describes the plot
thusly: "Musical set in the "future', e.g. 1994. A young couple enters
the world of the music industry, but also the world of drugs." Talk
about a trip! One of this insane musical's big numbers was a dancing, singing paean to speed, the totally hip, ultra cool thing to do!

Talk about warped. I'll stick to the vodka chacra, thank you. ▼

#### **Fri 20**

Spit/Kiss @ Jon Sims Center
JSC Alrspace (Artist-In-Residence) presents Spit/Kiss featuring Terre Unite Parker, Corrie Baumgardner and Mica Phelan.
Terre, Corrie and Mica blur the border between performance and self-exposure as they retell the classical myth of Cassandra from a queer/female perspective. Cassandra, princess of Troy, was believed to be insane. Apollo promised her the glift of foresight, but when she refused to sleep with him he spit in her mouth, cursing her to never be believed. Locked away by her family, raped and enslaved by her enemies and utlimately murdered by her master's wife, Cassandra endured her hardships twice, once in her mind and once in the world. She prophesied destruction and death, carrying this knowledge in solitude. In Spit/Kiss the artists transform Cassandra's history to challenge ancient and current authorities that purpor to decide what is right, correct, and true. \$10.515 sliding (No-TAFLOF). Fir. & Sat, May 20 & 21, at 8pm. Jon Sims Center for the Arts, 1519 Mission St. (at 1.1<sup>10</sup>). Info/Res: 415-554-0402; www.jonsimsct.org Spit/Kiss @ Jon Sims Center

#### Nature's Call @ Ruby's Clay Studio & Gallery

Studio & Gallery
Opening reception: "Nature's Call: Flower
Shaped Urinals and other Nature Inspired
Sculptures" by San Francisco Artist Clark
Sorensen. Large-scale flowers, deftly crafted of high fire porcelain, create an ironic
marriage of beauty and functionality. Each
piece is hand crafted and unique and can
actually be plumbed and used as a urinal.
Reception on Fri, May 20, 6-8pm. Show
runs thru June 13. Open 10am-4pm every
day. Ruby's Clay Studio, 552-A Noe St.
Info: 415-558-9819, www.rubysclaystudio.org; www.clarkmade.com

Houston Allred @ Martuni's Broadway and cabaret star Houston Allred continues to dazzle audiences with his outrageous blend of music and wit. Houston's wast cabaret repertoire promises that no audience will ever see the same show twice. He always has super talented guests to liven up the place. Says Houston: "Cabaret is an essential art form expressing some of the best in human contacts and humane possibilities. . . . Cabaret makes life worth loving," Fridays, 9pm-1am. Martuni's , #4 Valencia at Market St. Info: 415-241-0205; www.samhoustonallred.com Houston Allred @ Martuni's

#### Impact Theatre's Othello @ Theatre Rhinoceros

@ Theatre Rhinoceros
Theatre Rhinoceros hosts Impact Theatre's
"Othello," by William Shakespeare. Directed
by Melissa Hillman, "Othello" is a daring take on the Bard's tale of interracial
love. Othello is a dark-skinned African
American lesbian whose battlefield genius
has earned her a position of power within
the American military. Iago is a lightskinned African-American ensign whose
ability to please and assimilate has wone
him the nickname "Honest lago," but
whose rage, jealousy and thirst for power
bubblew just beneath the surface. \$10-\$20.
Wed-Sat. @ Bym; Sun. @ 3:30pm. Runs
thru May 22. Downstairs Theatre (The Studio) @ Theatre Rhinoceros, 29/26 16th St.
(Mission/So. Van Ness), Tix: 415-8615079; www.therhino.org

Matthew Frederick

#### Matthew Frederick @ Geras-Tousignant Gallery

@ Geras-Tousignant Gallery Opening reception: Matthew Frederick's California presents an unconventional and amusing spin on the genre of landscape painting. Veering from realistic depictions, he looks beyond the natural formations to capture and exagegreate the whimiscal shadows and shapes cast from surging hills, majestic oak trees and gaping valleys. Reception w/cosmos & hors d'oeuvres: Fri., May 20 and Sat., May 21. Exhibit show thru June 10. Geras-Tousignant Gallery, 437 Pacific Ave. Info: 415-986-1647; www.gtfineart.com

#### Sizzle @ Femina Potens

Sizzle (@) Femina Potens Sizzle, Femina Potens Sizzle, Femina Potens' monthly night of open mic erotica, erotic film screenings, burlesque, drag performances, spoken word and music. Sizzle's May lineup features the spoken word talents Diana Cage, Aysha Cromeenes and Robin Akimbo. Not to mention all of the fabulous erotica writers who will be stepping up to the open mic. Come read or just enjoy the smuttlest of the smutt at Femina Potens. \$5 at door, \$3 if you sign up for the open mic. (NOTAFLOF). May 20 at 8pm. 465 So. Van Ness at 16th St.

#### Wheel of Fudge @ The Transfer

"Fudgie Fridays" — The Return of/Grand Re-opening Party. MC Fudgie Frottage re-turns to his favorite dive bar, The Transfer

where the drinks and bartenders are cheap and strong, to entertain you with a variety show starring Pippi Lovestocking, Birdie-Bob Watt, Adrian Roberts, U.B. Mackin, Lily LeRouge and more. DJ Chelsea Starr (Hotpants). Win a spin on the "Wheel of Fuge" for free drinks! \$3-\$5 suggested donation (Benefit for PAWS). Fri., May 20, Jopm-Zam (show at midnite). The Transfer, 198 Church at Market. Info: 415-986-1647.

### Things You Shouldn't Say

Things You Shouldn't Say Past Midnight @ Dean Lesher Center, Walnut Creek theatre Q presents "Things You Shouldn't Say Past Midnight," the riotous sex farce by Peter Ackerman, subtitled "a comedy in three beds." It tells the story of three pairs of lovers trying to enjoy a night of ramance. Directed by Bobby Weinapple, Featuring John Atwood, Remi Barron, Darcy Brown-Martin, David Neufeld, Danielle O'Hare and Robert Anthony Peters. Theatre Q's mission is to present the evolving images of gays and lesbians on stage throughout the entire Bay Area. \$25 regular; \$20 senior/youth (show recommended for audiences 16 and over), Plays Thu.-Sat. at 8:15pm, and Sun. at 2:15pm. Through May 28. Dean Lesher Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic Drive, Walmut Creek. Tix/info: 925-943-7469; www.dirca.org

#### Tina's Café @ Magnet

JIMA'S CATE (@ Magnet Join Tina's Café for an evening devoted to one of the most popular (and controversial) girls about town! Tina's Café is a monthly social event for queer men who want to think about, talk about or do something about crystal use. Hear and recount True Stories ripped from the personal headlines. Resident DJ Steve Fabus spins for your aural pleasure. Free. 9-11pm. Magnet, 4122.18th St. Info: tweaker.org

#### Men Connecting @ AHP Services Center

(@) AFP SERVICES CENTER
Free workshop: "Neationships: Making
Them Work," part of "2005 Men Connecting." Come look at ways to improve relationships, everything from enhancing communication to knowing what you like in a relationship and understanding what others like. Fri., May 20, 6:15-9:30pm. AHP Services Center, 1930 Market St. Space limited; pre-registration required: 415-476-6488, ext. 1.

#### **Community Shopping Day**

@ Macy's Union Square
Buy a \$10 ticket and help support the programs of the African-American Shakespeare Company and other worthy arts organizations. Your ticket entitles you to take
10-20% off almost everything at Macy's
Union Square on May 20. Special events,
entertainment, product samplings, cosmetciss fun and more. Enter to win a \$500
Macy's Shopling Spree. All proceeds from
tickets will be sold by the African-American
Shakespeare Company will benefit that organization. Macy's associates will selling
tickets and will share proceeds with other
arts organizations. 10am-10pm. Tixinfio:
Patrik Gallineaux, 415-762-2071 ext 6;
patrick@african-americanshakes.org @ Macy's Union Square

#### **Sat 21**

#### Summer Poetry

Summer Poetry
Marathon @ The LAB
In the tradition of the Boston Poetry
Marathon, The LAB hosts The Bay Area
Summer Poetry Marathon. This year, poets
from across the Bay Area and the U.S. celebrate innovative poetry at a series of readings. Tonight (May 21): George Albon,
Joshua Clover, Judith Goldman, Andrew
Joron, Suzanne Stein, Chad Sweeney,
Stephen Vincent, and Alli Warren. \$3-\$5
sliding (NOTAFLOF). 7-10pm. The LAB,



Bambi Lake sings up a storm in Apocalypse Right Now CounterPULSE. See Sunday.

2948 16th St. (at Capp). Info: 415-864-8855; www.thelab.org

#### Whoop-Dee-Doo! @ NCTC

Whoop-Dee-Doo! @ NCTC
The New Conservatory Theatre Center's
Pride Season Ten presents the musical extrawaganza, Whoop-Dee-Doo!, directed by
Ed Decker with musical direction by
Michael O'Dell and choreography by Tom
Segal. Conceived/created by Charles
Catanese, Howard Crabtree, Dick Gallagher, Peter Morris and Mark Waldrop. In
this prequel to When Pigs Fly, host and costume designer Howard Crabtree triumpls
over a tiny budget, balkly actors, and a near
electrocution to produce a dizzy collage of
songs and sketches. It's a spectacle on a
shoestring and a valentine to classic musical theatre as well as a showcase for Crabtree's hilariously outlandish costumes. Director Ed Decker is Founder and Artistic
and Executive Director of The New Conservatory Theatre Center. \$20 previews (May
13-20) & Wed; \$26 Thu. & Sun; \$28 Fnt;
\$28 Sat; \$40 Opening Night. Showtimes
Bym Wed-Sat; 2pm Sun. NCTC, 25 Van
Ness Ave. near Market. Tix/info: 415-8618972; www.nctcfs org

Out The Box

#### Out The Box @ Off Market Studio

Out The Box uses sketch comedy and drama, spoken word and music to look at our world of pop culture and politics. Fea-turing; Jivoni Jordan and Stan Stone. \$15. Saturdays, May 21 & 28, at 8pm. 965 Mission at Fifth St. For tickets call 415-896-6477. Info: www.cafearts.com; www.outtheboxtheater.com

#### SF Dyke March Benefit

SF Dyke March Benefit

@ El Rio

D Garcia, Emcess Nafis and Micia
Mosley, Frank Sinatra, Happy Hyder, Julia
Serano, Damegoodz, Shawna Virago,
Nappy Grooves, Meliza Banales, The
Mamas Boyz, & Sistas in The Pit. Hot raffie ticket prizes. Free BBG, 88-820 sliding
(NOTAFLOF). Sat., May 21, 4-8pm. 3150
Missian St.

#### SF Hiking Club @ Muir Beach

"It's a mostly flat 15-mile bicycle ride ove the Golden Gate Bridge, followed by a merate 9-mile hike with an 1,800-ft. eleva-tion gain. Spectacular views all the way! Meet 9am at McLaren Lodge (Fell & Stamyan), Golden Gate Park. Info: www.sfhiking.com

#### Himalayan Fair @ Live Oak Park, Berkeley

(a) Live Oak Park, Berkeley Himalayan Fair, offering authentic Himalayan Tair, offering authentic Himalayan Tair & Crafts, music & dance, and food. One of the only occasions on Earth where Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims, Jews, Christians and secular folks gather in peace and pleasure. Tents & booths scattered under the towering oaks and retwoods of the park. The event benefits needy Nepalese, Fiberan, Indian, Mongolian, and Afghani grassroots projects. Sat. & Sum, May 21 & 22. Live Oak Park, 1300 Shat tuck Ave., Berkeley. Info: www.himalayanfair.net



Peggy Judy performs in Viva Variety 47 at ODC Theatre. See Tuesday.

#### Jock Talk @ GLBT Historical Society

@ GLBT Historical Society
The Gay, Lesbian, Bisevual, Transgender
Historical Society and Museum (GLBTHS)
presents "Jock Talk," a series of scholars,
athletes, activists and community leaders
discussing past and present GLBT sports
and their relationship to social movements,
culture, politics, and community building,
"Jock Talk" accompanies the new Main
Gallery exhibit, "Sporting Life GLBT Athletics and Cultural Change from the 1960s to Today," First on the "Jock Talk" roster:
UC Davis historian Julia Kehew, On Sat,
May 21, from 3:30-5:30 pm, she presents
"The Name of the Games: The Women's
Olympics and the Gay Olympic Games," discussing controversies in the 1920s and the
1980s over the word "Olympic." The event
is free and open to the public, and includes
free admission to the exhibit. Info: 415777-5455; www.glbthistory.org

#### **Sun 22**

#### Apocalypse Right Now @ CounterPULSE

"OcunterPULSE
"Apocalypse Right Now," an evening of proper-ganda, musique and underground people, exhumed for your sensory pleasure. CounterPULSE (formerly 848 Community Space) hosts this benefit for its brand new space at 1310 Mission. Local writer/per-former Kirk Read curates and encees this evening of music and performance, bringing together figures from local rock, pagan, queer, cabaret and literary scenes. Infamous drap performer Bambi Lake, Queen of the 86, will be doing free association showtunes and who knows what else. Other performers include Reid Spice of the improv-rock band Whirr; a local debut by fresh from Hong Kong rising list start Mimi Lok; a group energy colonic from shamanic musician Jeffrey Alphonsus Mooney; and butch trannyboy emo from musical duo Transtition. Kirk Read will emice and perform a fresh from the brain, sits-specific performance essay. \$10-\$20 sliding (NOTAFLOF). Sun., May 22 at 8pm. Info: www.counterpulse.org

#### Rainbow Community Center's Honors IX @ Contra Costa Country Club

Contra Costa Country Club
The Rainbow Community Center (RCC) of
Contra Costa County honors the local chapters of PFLAG (Parents, Family and
Friends of Lesbians and Gays;
www.pflag.org) and Markstein Beverage of
Pittsburg, California, at its annual event,
Honors IX, Circle of Friends Celebration,
"Brunch at the Club". Come enjoy the
awards ceremony, brunch buffer, no-host
bar, silent and live auctions, and entertainment. The RCC is the LGBTQ community
center of Contra Costa Country. 575. 1pm
Sun., May 22. Contra Costa Country Club,
801 Golf Course Road, Pleasant Hill.
Tix/Info: 925-692-0090;
www.rainbowcc.org

#### **Mon 23**

Earplay 20 @ YBCA Forum Earplay 20 @ YBCA Forum
San Francisco new nusic ensemble Earplay
concludes its 20th Anniversary Season with
a program including two world premiere
commissions by California composers,
William Kraft (Vintage Renaissance and
Beyond) and Richard Festinger (From the
Beginning). Rounding off the repertoire are
works by celebrated composers from different cultures: Oil Wilson (To Andy), Wang
Xi-Lin (Quartet op. 41), and Jonathan Harvey (The Riol), Mary Chun Conducts, with
Ted Brody on flute & piccolo; Peter Josheff
on clarimets; Terrie Baune on violin; Ellen
Ruth Rose on violia; Thaila Moore on cello;
and Karen Rosenak on piano, plus guest
artists. 8pm. Yerba Buena Center for the
Arts Forum, 701. Mission St. Tix/info: 415978-ARTS (2787); www.ybca.org;
www.earplay.org

#### 42nd Street Moon Gala @ Herbst Theatre

⊕ Herbst Theatre

42<sup>nd</sup> Street Moon, SF's beloved producer
of rare musicals, presents "A Trip to the
Moon on Gossamer Wings," a star-studded,
one-night-nolly fundraising gala dedicated to
the memory of Cole Porter. Featuring
Broadway stars Brent Barrett and Lea DeLaria, cabaret favorites Klea Blackhurst
and Andrea Marcovicci, and Lawrence Pech
and Wendy Van Oyck from the Lawrence
Pech Dance Company, with Meg Mackay,
Darlene Popovic and others. They'll perform
Cole Porter Classics and novelties. \$150\$200 premium orchestra; \$100 orchestra;
\$75 box & dress circle; \$60 balcony. 7pm
Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Ave. Tix:
415-392-4400; 42ndstmoon.org

#### RAWdance

@ Center for Sex & Culture

(a) Center for Sex & Culture
RAWdance presents the premiere of Scripting Intimacies, a co-sponsored project of the
Center for Sex and Culture, a new happening locale for performance and topical information. Drawing on the history of sexolony, Scripting Intimacies explores how definitions imposed on our physical and sexual
identities impact our self-perception and
our intimate relationships. \$5-\$15 sliding.
Gallery opens 7:30pm; show at 8pm. 398
11th St. (at Harrison). Info: 415-6860728; rawdance.org



CounterPULSE presents Transition in "Apocalypse Right Now." See Sunday.

#### Me

#### Viva Variety 47 @ ODC Theatre

\*\*ODC Theatre\*\*

\*\*Make It So' Productions presents the 47th variation of Viva Variety, San Francisco's longest running variety show. Hosted by Steve Murray, the new Ed Sullivan, Viva Variety A Spoulights an eclectic mix of the finest performers from dance, performance arts, physical circus, comedy, theatre, sopeken word, and music. Featuring Bill Cooper (cabaret): Velocity Circus (physical circus); Miss Peggy Judy (cabaret): Aundre the Wonderwoman (comedy); The Mercury Dimes (acoustic folk music); The Diamond Daggers (burlesque); and the cast of Hush Up, Sweet Charotte. This show is a benefit for the Immune Enhancement Project (IEP), whose mission is to promote healing and wellness by providing high quality, accessible and affordable Traditional Chinese Medicine and other healing arts to the community. \$20 (\$15 seniors/students/physically challenged). 8pm Tue., May 24, ODC Theatre, 3153 17th St. at Shotwell. Tix: ODC Box Office, 415-863-8934.

#### **OUT Spoken Episode VII** @ Comcast Ch. 11

@ Comcast Ch. 11
Watch OUT Spoken Episode VII on Comcast cable channel 11 on Tue, May 24, 6:30pm. Encore presentations on May 25 at 3pm. All 28 at 7pm. and May 29 at 8pm. Clips from Pursuit of Equality. On the couch: Pursuit of Equality directors Mike Couch: Pursuit of Equality in Couch: Pursuit of Equality on the couch: Pursuit of Equality on the couch: Prestival. On the couch: Frameline Executive Director Michael Lumpkin. QTV
News segment about the HRC ruling against Badlands; on the couch, Calvin Gipson, Former President, SF LGBT Pride Celebration Committee, fluc, and John Newsome, founder of And Castro for All (www.andcastrodall.org), QTV News segment: Circuit Roundup (galas and events). On the couch: BAR Publisher Thomas E Horry, John Lake, HRC Gala Dinner Chair; Donna Sachel, GLAAD co-Chair. Info: www.timgaskin.com

#### C5: Landscape Initiatives @ SF Camerawork

@ SF Camerawork
Opening reception: San Francisco Camerawork presents C5: Landscape Initiatives, an
exhibition featuring work by C5 Corporation, a highly respected new media collective based in San Jose. Three bodies of
work utilizing digital photographic prints,
fabricated soutpural objects, digital video
projections, and a choreographed walkthrough of the space using handheld Global
Positioning System (GPS) devices. A special "Conversation with C5 Corporation"
arritist takes place Thu, May 26, 7pm (\$4\$6 cover). Reception tonight (Tue, May 24)
from 5-8pm. Free. 1246 Folsom St. Info:
415-863-1001; www.sfcamerawork.org

#### **Wed 25**

#### Kevin Scott @ A Different Light Bookstore

LIGHT BOOKSTOP

In his first work of fiction, The Boys in the
Brownstone (Haworth Press/Harrington
- Park Press), screenwriter/playwright Kevin
Scott writes a comedy of manners about a
diverse group of gay men who don't fit in
anywhere except for a bar that they call
home. Intro by Pat Loud. Free. 7pm. 489
Castro St. Info: 415-431-0891.

#### Gender Pirates + Fresh Meat @ El Rio

Fresh Meat @ El Rio
Trannies, queers, fags and dykes put out at
Gender Pirates with Fresh Meat, a night of
saucy, smart & sexy transgender and queer
performance. Hip hop, rock n roll, burlesque, spoken word, drag, belly dancing,
and more. Featuring Lynnee Breedlove as
your MC, with The Viragos, Lipstick Conspiracy, JenRQ, The Montmas Boyz, Burlesque-Esque, Thea Hillman, Mario Balcitat,
Harlem Shake Burlesque, Angelo Hannah,
The Dangers, Mercedes & Alex, Billie &
Genevieve, and DJ Sam spinning hip hop,
queer 80s and punk rock...Go go dancers!
Door prizes! Fresh Meat merchandise! A
Fundraiser for Fresh Meat 2005 (June 16-

18), The Trans March (June 24), and United Genders of the Universe. \$7-\$12 sliding. Wed., May 25. Doors open 7:30; show at 8pm. E1 Rio, 3158 Mission St. at Precita. Info: www.freshmeatproductions.org

#### Joh Fair! @ The LGBT Center

@ The LGBT Center
The SF LGBT Center presents "Job Fair!",
the Bay Area's premier LGBT workforce
recruitment event. The event will attract all
levels of LGBT job seckers with qualifications in Customer Service, Administrative,
Sales, Technology, and Management. Opportunity focus on Government, Health
Care, Academia, Banking, Life Sciences,
Nonprofit, Hospitality, Travel Related, and
Utilities industries. Invitees include reps
from some 30 Fortune 500 companies and
other institutions with 120 + job opportunities in the banking, energy, insurance,
telecommunications, medical, education,
and nonprofit fields. Some 400-500 job
seekers are expected to attend. Free. 11am
3pm. SF LGBT Community Center, 1800
Market St. (at Octavia). Info: David Bach,
Workforce Development Coordinator, 415865-5534; www.sfcenter.org

#### Thu 26

#### Stateless @ Intersection

Stateless @ Intersection
Intersection for the Arts and Felonious;
noelovehiphop present the world premiere
of Stateless, a new performance work that
blends hip hop music, vaudeville, live beatboxing and German, Jewish and African
American history to explore the space in between in our collective memory. Written by
Dan Wolf and created and performed with
Tommy Shepherd (Felonious/Hybrid Project). Inspired by a letter written to Wolf by
his grandfather, given to him years after his
grandfather's death, unveils Wolf's family
history, their struggle growing up Jewish in
Germany during WWII and the story of his
famous Vaudevillian ancestors. Through hip
hop and beatboxing, Stateless simultaneously connects and reflects on Shepherd's
disparate history as an African American.
\$9-\$15 sliding (Thursdays are pay-whatyou-can). 8pm Thu.-Sat, May 26-June 4.
Intersection for the Arts, 446 Vallencia St.
(btwn 15th)\_16th)\_ Info: A15-626-3311;
www.theintersection.org

Nan Alamilla Boyd @ A

#### Nan Alamilla Boyd @ A Different Light Bookstore

Different Light Bookstore
Author Nan Alamilla Boyd, Assistant Professor of Women's and Gender Studies at
Sonoma State University, presents (University of California Press). The book tract
the history of gay men and lesbians in SF
from the turn of the century, when queer
bars emerged in the tourist districts, to
1965, when a raid on a drag ball changed
the course of queer history. Free. 7pm.
Info: 415-431-0891.

#### 'We Will Survive!'

"We Will Survive!"

@ Esta Noche

Esta Noche presents (in the old tradition of Hank Tavera): "We Will Survive!" Featuring Alexis, Danny, Debora, Gaillea, Mitzi Lee, Lucero, Carla Gay and Kitty Glamour. Sorpresas y regalos, \$5 donation. 9pm. Esta Noche, 3079 16<sup>th</sup> St. Info: 415-861-5757.

### WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

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Bay Area Reporter 395 Ninth Street San Francisco, CA 94103

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## Sizzling leather summer

by Mister Marcus

he highlight of the season is the International Mr. Leather contest in Chicago next weekend (May 27-30) but leather mavens are already looking beyond IML. The contest circuit doesn't end next weekend. It is just the beginning for future contests and there are already almost half a dozen men with titles waiting to compete at IML 2006. Still to come, International Ms. Leather in Omaha in August IM.

Still to come, International Ms. Leather in Omaha in August, International Leather Sir and boy in St. Petersburg, Florida, Mr. International Rubber in Chicago and several other contests and leather weekend gatherings. Below is a partial list of what to expect beyond IML 2005: First out of the gate in the Great Plains Leather Sir/boy competition in Kansas City, MO. the weekend of June 3-5. The following weekend, the Eastern Canada Leather Sir and boy competition will take place in Toronto; The weekend of June 10-11, the 5th Annual Mr. Edmonton Leather contest will take place; The action shifts to Phoenix, Arizona on the weekend of June 17-19 at SW Leather Pride Weekend when the Southwest Leather Sir/boy competition will take place.

the Southwest Leather Sir/boy competition will take place.

In New York, the same weekend of June 17-19 the Leather Pride Night mammoth auction on Saturday June 18th and the Folsom Street East Street fair will take place on Sunday, June 19th. The next weekend will see the Master's Retreat 8 in Dallas, Texas. Add to this all the Pride parades around the country and you observe that June will be a very busy month for many

In July, a new national one-day (July 4th) fundraiser event will be launched to benefit National Gay & Lesbian Task Force, and the Woodhull Freedom Foundation with the cooperation and support of Absolut Vodka. It's called "Bed, White and Leather". Over 30 leather bars in 17 cities will join forces to raise awareness and funds for both organizations. The weekend of July 1-2 the Los Angeles Boys of Leather present their annual "Stars & Stripes" weekend. The weekend of July 3-5 the

The weekend of July 3-5 the Great Plains Leather Sir/boy competition will take place in Kansas City, Missour. The 2nd annual Canadian National Leather contest will take place in Montreal during that city's Pride celebra-



The pride of San Diego (from left): Joe Croteau is San Diego Leather boy 2005, and San Diego Leather Daddy 2005 is Cherkis. They were the winners in a contest produced by the San Diego Boys of Leather on Saturday, May 7.

tion weekend. A complimentary weekend package is being offered to all current leather titleholders and the ABW 2005 family. IMSL. Lori Ellison will step aside in Omaha at the 19th annual Inter-

national Ms. Leather contest, which also features the 7th annual International Ms. Bootblack contest the weekend of July 15-17. The same weekend in Northern

July 15-17. The same weekend in Northern California, the very popular "Lazy Bear Weekend" takes place in the Russian River area (Guerneville, CA).

(Guerneville, CA).
And the final weekend
will be the
Master/slave Conferpansexual event in Wash-

ence, a pansexual event in Washington, D.C. with Viola Johnson, the keynote speaker. There's more much more. But all of the above should keep you busy planning ahead. As details of the above events are disseminated, I will let you know the details.

#### Int'l. Leather Sir/boy

When the International Mr. Drummer and Drummer boy titles folded with the disappearance of Drummer Magazine and a shameful severance of Robert Davolt from the now Dutch-owned entity, the action sent many of you into a frenzy of disbelief and dismay. The rights to produce the Drummer titles were given to Mike Zuhl of Pittsburgh, Pennsyl-

vania. who promptly created a board of directors and commenced to produce the Drummer and Drummer Boy titles. Later, due to the greed of the Dutch owners, the severance from all references to "Drummer" was complete and the titles were re-named "International Leather Sir and boy". Since then the contest has been held annually at the Sun Coast Resort in St. Petersburg, Florida, and it will be held there again this year.

But there seems to be an "aura"

But there seems to be an "aura" around these titles. Is there a lack of interest? Are regional producers not getting their money's worth by sponsoring regional competitions? Is there not enough communication between Mike Zuhl and his regional producers? The New England Region has not sent a representative for the past two years. Mike Marino and Connie Cox produced the Northeast region last year and they will not produce it this year. Graylin Thornton will not produce the Southern California regional contest and at this point in time, no one is willing to produce the Northern California region. Is interest wanning in these titles? Admitted, it's NOT the Drummer title many of us remember. Nevertheless, ILSb is allegedly based on the "Drummer" image and concepts. There has NOT been a decent leather magazine out there for several years now. The Instigator Mag-

next page 🕨

#### EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, May 19

Send-off and good luck party for Mr. SF Leather Dodger Allen and Mr. Hayes Valley Leather Jay Harcourt from 2100 to midnight with a \$7 beer/soda bust. Good luck in Chicago guys! We know you're doing it "Your Way."

Friday, May 20

Exiles of SF feature Janet Hardy and Dossie Easton at their monthly meeting at the Women's Bldg. tonight They will expound on "Radical Ecstasy". Doors open 1930. Program at 2000 until 2200.

Saturday, May 21

Men of Discipline present "Uniform Night" at the Powerhouse. No other info furnished. In the afternoon from 1500 to 1800, SF Lea. Daddy Doug presents "A Dog Day Afternoon" from 1500-1800 at the Eagle Tavern to benefit PAWS and Rocket Dog Rescue. Beer/soda bust - adoot a mutt!

Sunday, May 22

IML Send-Off party for Jay Harcourt @ Marlena's

Bar from 1600 to 2000. Good luck in Chicago!

Wednesday, May 25

Leather Buddies at 933 Harrison. You know the rules: No sneakers, no cologne, and no attitude. Strict dress code. Call 777-HEAD.

Weekend, May 26-31

27th edition of International Mr. Leather at the Navy Pier in Chicago. Hundreds of parties. NO drugs condoned!

Friday, May 27

Filiady, Way 27
Fig Fuck 2005 in a Chicago warehouse near the
host hotel. Only 1500 men admitted by the DickWadd Fan Club. Get an invite at the Dick Wadd
booth at the IML Leather Market or email: customerservice@dickwadd.com

Saturday, May 28

The 15 Association play party at the usual location. For info call 673-0452 or: www.the25association.com.

# The phallus indurate

Or, 'Song of the dildo, part 1'

by John F. Karr

he Johnny Hazzard Dildo just fell in my lap. I'd never gotten a review copy of a dildo before. This one was compliments of the Chi Chi LaRue ColleXXXion. Chi Chi's got some rather novel booty-rooters avail-

able at www.ChannellReleasing.com, but this is her first celebrity dildo.

It's my first replicock, too. But eager analists snatch 'em up. The stores are full of them. Falcon Studio gets some sort of prize for having 14 of its stars available for topical application in your home. Other companies offer many varieties. There's the Kevin Dean Virtual Reality Cock: 'Its 12 in. prove that size is everything,' reads its copy, but that's true only if you disregard aesthetics. There's the Adam Dexter Cock, one of only a couple African-American dildos; couple African-American dildos; the Ron Jeremy Dong, for those of

you who want to pretend you're making out with barnyard animals; the Ty Fox Super Cock, "with the magic-mushroom head;" the Jeff Stryker Rotating Dildo — "Simply flick the switch!" and it turns round like

Susan on

cup; and there's the Peter North Decorator Ejaculating Penis. Cur-Decorator Ejaculating Penis. Currently str8t boy North was once gay star Matt Ramsey, and his highly decorative cock is fondly remembered. His is the only Star Cock that squirts. "Using the hole in the top of the cock, fill the balls full of liquid, then squeeze it out to create a great ejaculation!" The instructions suggest making Peter/Matt's cum out of evaporated milk, sugar and an egg white. But one reviewer I've seen has recommended against that, advising, "You could always give natural yogurt a try."

In a category of its own is the Lukas Ridgeston dildo. My friend Prissy bought two as soon as it hit the stores. "Look, at this, girl," she gushed. "It's got a foreskin." It was, indeed, a marvel of engineering, the first dildo ever made with a working foreskin, which rolls up and down over the cockhead. "But



Not the Thing Itself, but close

eeeuch," Miss Thing wailed.
"Wouldn't your..." she paused,
looking for a ladylike word.
"Wouldn't your 'stuff' get
caught under it? It's

gross!"
"No, dear, you're gross. Number One,

you're supposed to douche before inser-tion. Number Two, you're supposed to put a condom on the

thing. They're

hard to clean, and the porous ones breed bacteria."

"Yes, yes," she squealed, "but if you put a condom on the Lukas Cock, how are you going to feel the foreskin?"

Ah — a puzzlement!

#### Big squeeze

Karrnal Knowledge

I delayed nearly two weeks be-fore I could bring myself to open the Johnny Hazzard Penis. I was afraid. Afraid I'd discover its falseness. Better to let it reside, totemic, encased in molded-plastic purity, where it's cleverly positioned against a photo of Johnny to look like his Real Thing gone gargantua. Well, it kept crying my name, so I finally released it. Holding it in my hand, it looked amazingly real. Unlike a lot of celebrity moldings, this one doesn't seem exaggerated. Just like Johnny's, it's not frighteningly long, but has a nice heft and con-

vincingly firm squeezability. The vincingly firm squeezability. The glans has the exact texture of Johnny's grained satin, and every other pore and wrinkle of Johnny's cock is not only exactly, but naturally duplicated. What an incredible art the making of dildos has become — even the tracery of veins beneath the skin are a delicate light-blue.

Naturally I put it in my

cate light-blue.

Naturally, I put it in my mouth. "You put it in your mouth?" Prissy asked as incredulously as if I'd just told her I'd licked Dianne Feinstein. I told her, "Of course. Everybody always does that in movine the president of the property o does that in movies, they wipe it all over their body and deep throat it while their eyes roll back in ec-stasy." "Yeah, but they're being paid!" Well, with or without fee, sucking is hot-wired. It's genetic, you know, babies do it to everything within reach, straight guys do it to udders, and I put the dildo in my mouth. Bottom line — I'm a cocksucker. I wanna suck a star's cock, not sit on a rubber imitation of it. You know that when a Johnof it. You know that when a Johnny comes along, we each gotta
take him in our own way. Anyway,
I've always been more into buttplugs. Much less exertion. But this
one is a grave disappointment. It
tastes soapy, and leaves an oil-slick
aftertaste. So I'm sure I won't be
going down on it again. The real
question is, will it be going up in
me?

Blandishments on the box assure me that these 8 in. of deep pleasure will make me realize why Johnny's a star. I'm dubious. John-Johnny's a star. I'm dubious, John-ny's a star because there's some-thing besides a suction cup at the end of his dick. And that some-thing animates his dick. Some-thing that neither the wall of my shower stall nor the stool that's ex-styling injuly beight for sometting. shower stall nor the stool that's exactly the right height for squatting on can do to put some ju-ju in this one. And though I've got a good imagination, I just can't see myself crying, "Fuck me, Johnny, fuck me," as I bounce on a replicock. C'mon — it's rubber. It's stuck to my chair with a suction cup! Still, this attractive and nicely-sized toy has its allure. "So," Prissy probed gently, "have you and Johnny... consummated?" I gave her my most butch silent glance. "Well, how can you review it if

"Well, how can you review it if you haven't used it?" Ah — another puzzlement. Best thing about a replicock is that they don't tell. And neither will I. ▼

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#### **Mister Marcus**

previous page

azine seems to be thriving but its "esoteric" content and "in your face" presentation isn't getting the face presentation isn't getting the attention it deserves. Great graphics, color and "butchly" approaches to anything leather/uniform/latex and kink go unappreciated by the major leather community.

At any rate, International Leather sir/boy will take place this year again in St. Petersburg, Florida at the Sun Coast Resort If

da at the Sun Coast Resort. If there has been a change in venue, no one told me about it. But get-ting "press" out of Mike Zuhl is like trying to get an audience with the Pope. Any pope.

#### Local news

All across the nation, send-off parties for IML 2005 contestants are taking place. Last weekend, Saturday, May 14, Mr. North Coast Leather Jeff Hettinger host-ed his at the Rainbow Cattle Company up at the Russian River, while Mama's Family Reunion event was taking place. A hefty crowd of locals and out-of-town-ers were on hand for the barbecue and beer bust. There were no contestants for the Russian River Leather Sir/boy titles, so it was canceled, but the outgoing title-holder bid his farewell in full-face "sister" drag to much applause.

"sister" drag to much applause.
Tonight, Thursday, May 19,
San Francisco's entries Dodger
Allen (Mr. SF Leather) and Jay
Harcourt (Mr. Hayes Valley
Leather) will host a send-off party
at the Powerhouse from about
2100 on. Then on Sunday, May 22,
Marlena's Bar will host a send-off
party for Jay Harcourt from 1600
to 2000, Mr. Hayes Valley Leather.
That winds it up for this week.
Stay tuned for developments in
your area and make sure everything you do while wearing

thing you do while wearing leather is honorable.

At deadline time I learned of the death of Robert Davolt. He will be greatly missed. ▼



Jeff Hettinger is Mr. North Coast Leather (Russian River Area) and among the 2005 IML Class. He celebrated his IML send-off at the Rainbow Cattle Company bar last Saturday, May 14.

# 'Under the Sea' packs the house

The Edge celebrates 14 years with an underwater theme

he 14th Anniversary Party of The Edge last Saturday lived up to all expectations, with incredible sea-world decorations by Joe Mac, stellar musical enter-tainment from Deana Dawn, Manley Lennox, Kelly Parks, and Tanya Hullana, tasty hors and lanya Hullana, tasty hors d'oeuvres, free-flowing cocktails, and a packed house. Manager Dave Wheeler kept the oldies music coming as a slide show of years past flashed on a wall high above the stage. Gary Virginia distributed customer appreciation. distributed customer appreciation awards and kept the celebrants

happy and entertained, all while raising money for Family Link. There's no doubt about it: this is a business that knows what it's

doing and does it right!
After that celebration, we headed over to Mezzanine/industry and the Raging Stallion video release party hosted by that disarmingly hand-some Michael Brandon. The place was On The

jammed, jammed, and there were smiles all around. Since the night was still young, we jaunted over to The Stud for Super Sugar hosted by **Jose**. This legendary bar continues to delight its clientele, and this special monthly club is adding a new cut-ting-edge feel to Saturday nights.

Thanks to David
Rice, we attended Debbie DeCoudreaux's
opening night at The
Empire Plush Room. She ered a charming program of funny and touching songs while sharing some personal in-

some personal insights she has gathered during her musical career. Being opening night, the crowd glittered as well, including charismatic Veronica Klaus, currently appearing on Saturday nights at Michael's Octavia Lounge, and legendary French star and Tony Award-winger Liliane Monteyecchi, headner Liliane Montevecchi, head-lining at the delightful Teatro Zinzanni. The Plush Room still has a magical ability to offer music beautifully and intimately to those who appreciate the art. Speaking of live music, keep your eyes open for an upcoming series of Friday nights at the Pan-Pacific Hotel featuring amazing local talent from Tin Pan Alley Productions. More to come. ner Liliane Montevecchi, head-

Productions. More to come



Last Friday night, the halls of Noe Valley Ministry reverberated with music and memories of a great friend of the community, "Celebrating the Life and Times of the Fabulous Ms. Jo Carol." Kim



Manley Lennox, Terry Penn, and Deena Dawn at the Under the Sea party

Teevan pulled together a great cast of singers and speakers, relying heavily on the great body of music that Jo Carol composed and recorded. There wasn't a seat to be had nor a dry eye in the house. One of the most stunning moments was our own **Sheba!** masterfully singing "Heart of Gold" to Ms. Carol's mother, the person for whom Ms. Carol had written the

whom Ms. Carol had written the song. Beautiful music is truly timeless and incredibly powerful. The weekend ended on a somber but meaningful note with the AIDS Candlelight Vigil on Sunday night. This annual event was started in San Francisco in 1983, and has grown to include 4,500 communities in 93 countries. As we walked from the Castro to the Life Garden at Noe and Market, so many thoughts circled the mostly Life Carden at Noe and Market, so many thoughts circled the mostly quiet gathering... memories of vi-brant lives snuffed out, years of dis-regard and blame, overwhelming sadness, and eventually pride in the strength and agility of our community in its response to this unprecedented pandemic. Speakers included Supervisor Bevan Dufty, Human Rights Commissioner Cecilia Chung, Dr. Michael Siever, and emcee Gary Virginia, but big kudos go to Sister Kitty for spearheading this project.

Looking for a fun evening? Here are two upcoming ideas: This Saturday, May 21, at 8 p.m. at Marlena's. Empress Amber

This Saturday, May 21, at 8 p.m. at Marlena's, Empress Amber Dee-Ole of Monterey and Prince Imperial Tony Onorati celebrate a decade of Priscilla: Queen of the Desert. We just love a theme! And next Thursday, May 26, at 5:30 p.m., at the SF LGBT Community Center, the AIDS Legal Referral Panel presents Legal Briefs II, an Underwear Fashion Show & Extravaganza. Last year's inaugural event was such a hit, as usually staid attorneys took to the runway sporting stylish underwear and lots of attitude. This year, the men of Titan Men will be joining the cast, so don't miss it. ▼

### E is almost here! Don't miss your chance

Sea-world decor by Joe Mac transformed familiar environs at The Edge

to get in on the action. Reserve your ad space now!

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STREET DATE FOR THE PRIDE ISSUE: JUNE 23, 2005

#### **Fairy Butch**

and the show typically drew a and the show typically drew a packed house, it was also extremely crowded. "I really like my shows," Lotney says with a laugh, "but if I was a spectator, I would really think twice about coming, house it was so uncomfortable."

because it was so uncomfortable." After "In Bed" left the CoCo Club in 2000, the show searched for a permanent home for two years, with shows produced intermittently at a variety of locations, until it found a home at Club Galia (now 12 Galaxies) in the Mission District. Lotney currently produces about a dozen "In Bed with Fairy Butch" shows every year, including special shows for Pride, Hanukkah (the annual "Hanukkah Hoedown" is surely a San Francisco original), and New Year's Eve. For the 10th anniversary show, Lotney promises, "In addition to fabulous dancers, we're going to do a new 'In Bed' game, for people who met at Fairy Butch. I expect there will be a big Shirley number, and a couple of extra surprises!"

Lotney, 40, first moved to San Francisco in 1985 when she was 20, after growing up in Dayton, Ohio. "I didn't know a soul in San Ohio. I didn't know a soul in San Francisco," she remembers. "I had only been there once, when I was eight." Arriving with only \$700 in her pocket, she was eager to jump into the queer scene. "I didn't have any money, and I didn't have any



Fairy Butch pleases the crowd

friends out here, so I would basitriends out here, so I would basi-cally go to the bar with a tooth-brush in my back pocket, find somebody to go home with, and stay with them for two weeks," she recalls, laughing. "That's how I started out here."

Although Lotney had attended the University of Michigan for one year after high school, she didn't go back to college until she was 25, when she enrolled in the University of California at Berkeley to earn an interdisciplinary degree in the Visual and Literary Represen-tations of Sexuality. During her years at Berkeley, she became a sex educator, which led to her work with On Our Backs and, eventually, what she calls the "Fairy Butch

"In my twenties, I focused on ro mance, love and sex, and what did I get?" she asks. "I got a career." ▼

### Up and down **Polk Street**

**Sweet Lips** 

by Sweet Lips

art of Polk Street looks like art of Polk Street looks like no-man's land with all the vacant and boarded-up stores. It must be the greedy landlords' fault! I certainly would like it to look like it did during our salad days, when we were all still green and wet behind the ears.

Polk The neighborhood still has some great things going on, in-cluding the popular N' Touch dance club, at 1548 Polk St., which has spe-cial events every even

cial events every evening. Friday night dancing is packed with DJ X night dancing is packed with DJ X and hot go-go boys from 11 p.m. till closing, and don't forget they are open 3 p.m. daily. With drinks at \$2, you can hardly find a space at the bar . . . isn't that right, Gil? The popular "Circle J" video club at 369 Ellis St. still has the tal-

ented Dildora, but he tells me that two nights, Tuesday and Friday starting at 8 p.m., are really hot "Naked Nites" and assures me the crowd is fantastic. Stopped off with Dennis Tyler

at the recently remodeled Gang-way at 841 Larkin St. The new bar is much longer and very much improved. Darrell is still as charming as ever behind the new seafoam

Things are moving ahead nice-

ly for the new "Vous," as we affectionately refer to Club Rendez-Vous, which recently closed its doors, in search of a new location. Seems the relocation is going well.

More on that in a later column.

Over in the Castro, the very pleasant Pilsner Inn at 225 Church St. is the new hangout for the old Bob Golovich crowd, especially when bartender Keith is on the planks.

For those of you who go South of Market, don't forget Jerry Olsen's Lone Star Saloon, at 1354 Harrison St., has many spe-cial events in the

works. You won't want to miss them! Call 415-863-9999 for info.

On a personal grooming note, the beard is gone! It feels wonderful to be clean-shaven again, so all of you can forget about calling me Ernest Hemingway! Oh, the things

I got to see Don Rogers of Gingers's the other evening, and he looks great! Keep up the good work, Don!

Memorial Day is just around the corner, which means it's time to start my Christmas Club once again! My, how the seasons turn so

Speaking of holidays, don't for-get that Gay Pride weekend is com-ing up soon! If you haven't started working on your outfits and floats, now is the time to get busy!

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#### **Prom Queen**

◆ page 34

When we first spy him, Marc is just waking up from what the cameraman slyly calls his "beauty sleep," and frankly he's not all sleep," and frankly he's not all that pleased to be onscreen in his morning face, complete with glasses instead of contact lenses. Later, this shy Marc will give a heartbreakingly real performance at a press conference in Ottawa. Instead of the self-assured boy who knows his lines, Marc is overwhelmed by emotion and drops his head on the table as if the exercise of having to feign the persona of a member of the Royal Family has finally got to him. But his unfinished sentence hangs in the air as eloquently as the more the air as eloquently as the more scripted soliloquy movingly de-livered by Ashmore in *Prom* 

#### Second banana

Marc's boyfriend, Jason (Mac Fyee), becomes a closeted, cau-tionary figure in the movie. Di-rector L'Ecuyer says the boyfriend deserves to be left behind while Marc goes on to college, since he refuses to come out. In the documentary, the boyfriend appears more eager to talk to the camera more eager to talk to the camera than Marc, and at one point ex-presses a wish that the whole media blitz had been framed more with them as a couple. Marc's real-life father is also far more comfortable at stating bis feelings than his son. Prom

his feelings than his son. Prom Queen's father, nicely under-played by Zabrinski, appears more based on the classic stolid, silent Quebec father figure. There is a nice comic touch in the script where a gay man (played by writer Staines) confuses the fa-ther for a "daddy"-like trick at a

party publicizing Marc's case.

The real problem with *Prom Queen* is that it aspires to deliver a John Waters-like salvo against Catholic morality while in reality falling below the satirical standards of *Dawson's Creek*. The mistake of those who think that the saucy glibness of the faux teens from the *Creek* or *The O.C.* can substitute for actual character development is the failure to can substitute for actual charac-ter development is the failure to realize that TV anthology-show characters represent a cumulative identity established over weeks and seasons. The comic book-like chorus of female and male "Britneys" who are supposed to make us laugh through this episode of teen hell are just puerile jokes. The considerable talents of the late Andre Noble (star of Sugar) are wasted in these skits. Noble

would have made a good school foil, friend or foe. The core of the real Marc Hall story includes the heroic support story includes the heroic support the boy and his family received from his father's union, a local of the Canadian Auto Workers. Union organizer Mike Shields is a pit bull as he challenges the Catholic school's board to let Marc plead his case. Later, Marc Marc plead his case. Later, Marc gets a personal boost from the national auto-workers' president, and a substantial check to make up for the scholarship vindictive-

ly yanked by the school.

Prom Queen is well worth
watching for its indictment of a
Rome-dictated Catholicism that has lost all contact with our age, has lost all contact with our age, for Ashmore's earnest performance, and for a comic supporting role from *Kids in the Hall* graduate Scott Thompson as Marc's big-city lawyer, but it's a pity that it couldn't have included more of the grit and contradictions of its real-life person.

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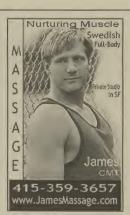
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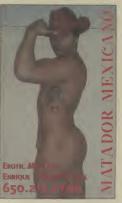
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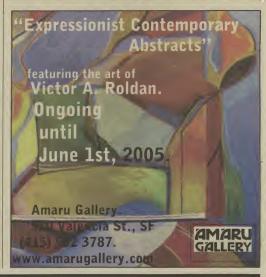












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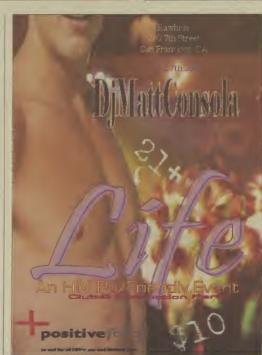
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